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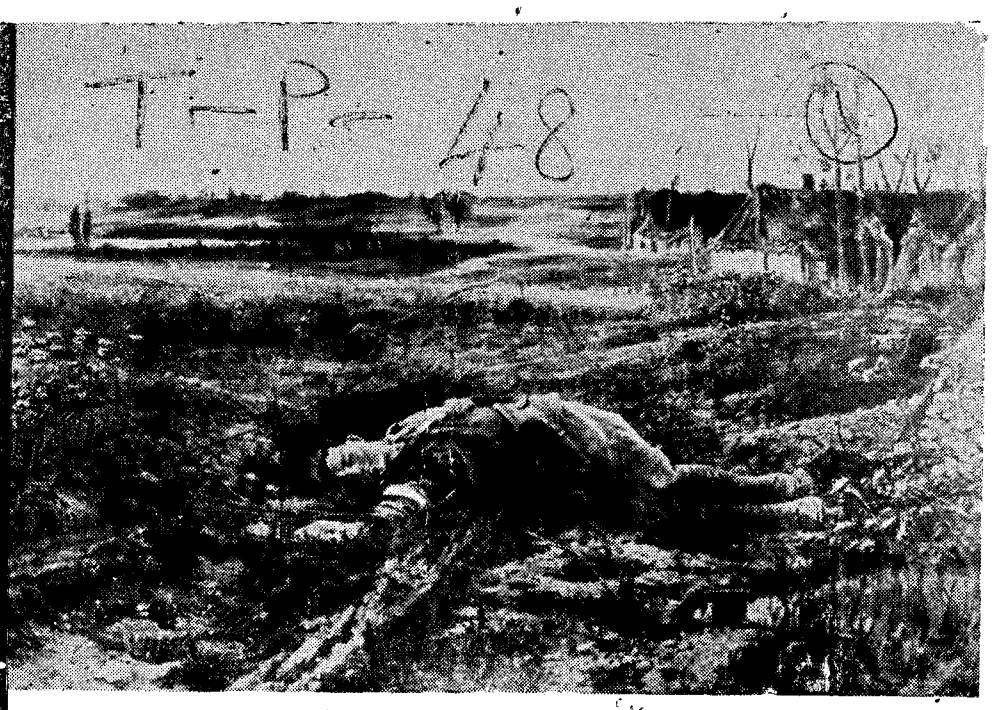

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UARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE CORPS OF SIGNALS

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Colonel Commandants
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MAJOR GENERAL DAULET SINGH

APRIL 1956 *Vol.* 8 *No.* 2

In this Issue

Editorial	2
Saigon Overcomes a Technical Hitch —*by SNM*	3
Obituaries	6
National Defence Academy —*2/Lt. Manjit Singh Gujral*	8
Our Corps Veterans	10
My Hobby—Amateur Radio —*by 2/Lt. R. Saran*	11
Cartoon—School Personalities	13
Principles of Television —*by Shri K. S. Krishna Swamy*	14
Moron Mess —*by Capt. C. C. Bakshi*	19
Crocodile Hunting in Bhuj —*by Capt. Jaipal*	21
Personal Call	23
मनी आर्डर —मदनलाल गुप्ता	२४
सैनिक वन्दना —सिगनलमेन महेन्द्रनाथ	२६
सैनिक का आदर्श —नाथूराम त्रिवेदी 'वीर'	२६
Despatch from units	27
Off the Record	43

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ERRATA

Page 7 for Sohan Lal Soni read Shyam Lal Soni.

for GOC in C East Punjab read GOC East Punjab

Page 41 last para first line for a nter read an inter.

EDITORIAL

News of the tragic murder of Lt. Col. H. K. Bhagwat on 13 Jan. 56 was received with incredulity and deep sorrow by all those who knew him. We had barely recovered from this shock when a malignant fate struck again and we heard that Maj. S. L. Soni had died of heart failure on 9 Feb. 56. The Corps is much the poorer for the loss of these two officers and we offer our most sincere sympathy to their next of kin. Obituaries are published elsewhere in this number.

In this issue we follow up our last article on the battlefield application of television with a more technical one explaining how it all works. Two of our junior officers have sent in welcome contributions; there is also a description of a shoot and the experience of one of our chaps in Indo-China. Our Hindi section contains both a story and two poems, very creditable first-attempts by three of our men.

We are very pleased to report that the number of 'despatches from units' has increased considerably and units which had remained silent in the past have begun to make an appearance in our columns. We hope that they will continue to call us since the success of our magazine is entirely dependent on the material we receive.

The Akehurst Medal Essay Competition has been won by Jem. K. Parthasarthy of Western Command Signal Regiment. We congratulate him for writing a fine essay which we will be proud to publish in our next issue.

One minor change is that the Personal Column has been re-named Personal Call, though the material it will contain remains the same. It will help us if units give full details of events to be printed under this heading. For instance we often get reports about somebody who has recently got married but no mention is made of place and date which would be of particular interest to all his friends.

Saigon Overcomes A Technical Hitch

By
SNM

The superintendent in the signal centre at Saigon stretched himself luxuriously and felt that on occasion life could be good. It was Saturday afternoon, and all the officers having long before this agreed that *siesta* was indispensable, there was no-one to run him around. All circuits were through, even RTT control, usually an oppressive tyrant, was behaving like a page from *How to win friends and influence people*, while little Tunti selling cigarettes across the road had seemed more amiable lately. The superintendent, a non-smoker, was about to buy himself another packet when the Hanoi operator reported that his transmitter was no longer being keyed. Two minutes later the signal centre was in an uproar as every operator reported the same thing.

The superintendent knew exactly where the fault lay. It was obvious that the terminal equipment rejoicing in the name of La Porte 77J-162 was defective. To whistle up a radio mechanic to check the 77J-162 was easy enough, and the superintendent reached for the phone to conduct a similar check at the transmitter end. He should have known better, of course. The direct phone line passed through the same equipment and was as dead as the Dodo. This meant reaching x-mitters through a couple of French exchanges and although the superintendent tried hard enough his French, modified by a Tamilian accent, just could not make the grade.

In the fitness of things, therefore, the DSO's *siesta* was rudely interrupted and he got up wishing he had opted for the infantry. The DSO, who had arrived recently from India, rapidly covered the same ground as the superintendent, and came to a standstill at the same point. After a reference to his French interpreter's guide had failed to deliver the goods, he resolved to place the issue squarely before the OC det, who, all said and done, had been in the country longer and should therefore have a better grip on the language.

The OC det awoke with a feeling that beer was much too heavy for a life as active as this. He showed up at the signal centre and realising that the DSO had a misplaced confidence in his linguistic abilities decided that it would be much quicker to drive the seven miles to the transmitter hall.

The same chaotic bedlam which prevailed at the signal centre should, by every rule of the game, have been duplicated at transmitters. But the French duty mechanic appeared to be concentrating furiously on some sort of a brightly illustrated story of frustrated love, while the Indian mechanic hastily trousered a cigarette. Nothing else was going on.

Ten minutes of ardent questioning explained the lull. It appeared that La Porte had given trouble in the past and was undoubtedly faulty again, but, and this was the crux of the matter, only the technical adjutant was allowed to handle it. Could the technical adjutant be sent for? On Saturday afternoon? But this was the time for leisure, not work. On Monday morning, no doubt things would be well again. The DSO, fresh from the field of telecom and eager to make his mark decided to have a crack at M'lle La Porte himself, but the French mechanic sprang to protect his young, and the OC det called the scheme off to prevent an international incident.

The DSO now paced to and fro, and the French mechanic leaped from his chair every time he went anywhere near La Porte. The OC det having borrowed the mechanic's love story decided that French art merited closer study.

A 100 to 1 shot came off. The technical adjutant had been prevailed upon to come, and surprised everybody by putting in an appearance.

A few minutes later La Porte was pronounced not guilty, the physical lines duly condemned, the technical adjutant put on his cap and started for home.

"A line party" screamed the OC det. "But immediately" echoed the DSO. It was made

quite clear, however, that the calling up of line parties was outside the province of the technical adjutant who continued homeward bound. "Who", asked the OC det, "is responsible for the provision of a line party?" Nobody had very clear ideas about this on a Saturday evening and various suggestions began to be mooted freely. It was when this discussion had ended on the theme that it would be best to wait till Monday that the OC det demanded with a grandly majestic gesture to be put in telephonic touch with the general officer commanding French Signals in Indo-China. The General, who was lugged away from a cocktail party and hearing a lot of unintelligible gibberish, for he spoke no English, began to suspect that he was the victim of a practical joke. Pacification was slow and difficult, but in the end authority to obtain a line party was in the bag.

The line party materialised within a remarkably short time. This party had been standing-by at the French Signal Office for emergencies, and had been press-ganged into service by a liaison sergeant who had made the fatal mistake of being found. At this point Badri Prashad DR Class 3 shot off to the French Signal Office with messages to all and sundry informing them that the failure of communications was due to technical reasons, and not to the Indian signal centre having been regrettably wiped out in one of Saigon's periodic disturbances.

It was dark when the line party strongly escorted, set out, accompanied by the DSO and OC det. These gentlemen were far from happy. For one thing, with conditions in the city broodingly tense a fight could start without warning and to be involved, even as an unwilling spectator, would mean dropping a sizeable diplomatic brick. And for another, they didn't have the faintest idea where they were going. Not to have gone, however, would have meant losing complete touch with the situation.

Suddenly dim figures loomed out of the turbid night. Saboteur! whispered the Sergeant of the guard and prepared his men for an encounter battle. The Saboteur who also carried arms did likewise, and the OC det wondered whether as the senior person present he had any responsibility to prevent bloodshed; the question, of course, was purely academic for he was in no position to give orders to anybody, even if he could have given them in intelligible French.

The DSO wondered if his side had enough men to ensure victory, and the OC det who doubted this was half inclined to call it a day and leg it for home, when a great shout went up and the escort charged recklessly forward.

The Saboteur, it appeared were a French air force signal company engaged in shifting unit location. This move having been successfully completed, the airmen were under orders to destroy all unwanted cable lines to prevent their use by unfriendly elements. They had set cheerfully about this task, and a surge of enthusiasm had resulted in the cutting of all International Commission lines.

The air force had done its job well. Not only had particular care been taken to slash cable heads, but an unholy mess of cable proclaimed the impracticability of identification, much less repair. A discussion on the next step produced what was by now a well-worn theme, wait till Monday. The DSO, however, pointed out that the age of miracles having passed, the situation was unlikely to improve on Monday. The discussion threatened to become circular again when one of the *poilus* had a bright idea. A line running to a naval victualling unit was eminently suitable for loaning to the International Commission. The idea was applauded by everybody present, and the unlucky victualler not being present to object, it was quickly agreed to "borrow" his line.

The lineman worked slowly, punctuated by swigs of life-giving cognac, but even this hour of trial passed and an exhausted DSO returned to the signal centre to be confronted by Badri, DR Class 3. It appeared that the road to the French Signal Office was closed due to some sort of political trouble, and Badri, not of VC mould, had prudently returned home.

However, it did not matter now because with the single line connected to carrier equipment, vital links to Delhi and RHQ in Hanoi were re-established. After the usual unpleasantries (such as explain why there was no communication, why no effort was made to report the break etc.) had been passed, the primary task of clearing accumulated traffic commenced.

This work was somewhat hampered by gratuitous advice which kept rolling in over the air. Somebody advised moving receivers down to the transmitter hall, but the vision of a frail little receiver wire, surrounded by a

whole field of lusty transmitter aerials caused the DSO to shudder delicately. Another stated blandly that if French mechanics were not able to repair the lines it should be done by the Indians themselves. A vision of Bhoop Singh Lineman Field Class 3 let loose among the UG of Saigon caused the DSO to shudder again. Orders from RHQ were simple and tense. It directed the signal det to overcome any technical hitch.

At 2 AM the carrier equipment decided that it had done more than its fair share of work and quietly packed up. Curfew preventing any sort of movement at night, status quo was maintained till Sunday morning.

Sunday was very similar to the Saturday. Now it was simply a question of getting the line and the carrier equipment to work at the same time. Easier said than done. Both were old and faulty and quite unconscious that the honour of the Indian signal corps was at stake. The monsoon washed out play for long stretches and reports began to come in about a victualler on the warpath. All efforts to contact anybody in authority proved unavailing, the communication system limped its way through the day, and finally died peacefully a couple of hours after dark.

Monday opened with a burst of furious energy. The French High Command not wishing to be accused of sabotaging the Geneva Agreement launched concerted drives to right matters. Technical conferences sent the telecom-trained DSO into raptures, while the OC det not introduced to the pleasures of double Dutch carrier keying could only hope that the carrier would not shed its burden along the way. The Air Force received its just reward by having to disgorge some of its ill-gotten lines, and in the evening a happy DSO was visiting transmitters with all circuits working again, and a triumphant duty mechanic saying he had pointed out all along the wisdom of waiting till Monday.

A few days later the GSO 2 contacted the OC det on the telephone. The French High Command had presented its compliments to the International Commission and while ensuring that august body of its highest esteem, would they please make certain that commission personnel did not appropriate lines belonging to the French Navy. "Do you", asked the GSO 2, "know anything about this?"

* * * *

Copy of a DO letter from Mr. P. A. Bridle, member, International Commission for supervision and control in Laos from Canada to Shri S. Sen.

I was indeed sorry to learn that one of the Indian Army Signalman was recently wounded during an unfortunate incident at Houei Thao. Would you kindly convey to him my sympathy and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

I would also at this time like to express my appreciation of the excellent work performed on the Indo-China Commission by all the Indian Army Signal Corps. It is no exaggeration to say that the hard work and devotion to duty shown since the beginning of the Commission's activities by the officers and men of this Corps have contributed to a very large extent to the successful operation and maintenance of the Commission's Headquarters units and teams in the field.

Note of appreciation by the chief of the Army staff on the above communication.

Please add my best wishes for speedy recovery and congratulations for Sigs on excellent work.

Major S. L. SONI

Major S. L. Soni

Major Sohan Lal Soni began his military life in the Indian Military Academy and the Signals OTS, Mhow. He was commissioned in June 1943 and throughout his army career was closely associated with different Air Formation Signal Regiments and CAFSO's headquarters. He qualified at the Advanced Lines Course and was an instructor both at the School of Signals and the Infantry School, Mhow. He was commanding a Communication Zone Signal Company at the time of his death.

Soni was the type of person who got a lot of fun out of life. In fact, it is difficult to believe that he suffered from high blood pressure. He had a happy knack of putting everybody at their ease for here was a person who spoke to you with a twinkle in his eye. He loved shooting and hockey and pursued both, with what was for him an intent seriousness, until the doctors advised him to take it easy. He loved people and was full of good cheer. Close friends will remember nostalgically the many social occasions made hugely successful by his presence.

He was 34 years old at the time of his death and is survived by his wife and daughter. The funeral was attended by the GOC in C East Punjab, the CSO Western Command and the Sub Area Commander. The Corps of Signals pipe band played the funeral march.

THE AKEHURST MEDAL ESSAY COMPETITION 1956

Subjects for the next Akehurst Medal Essay Competition are given below. Two alternative subjects have been selected:—

"THE SIGNALMAN is the Corps Journal and as such must cater for the interests of all ranks of the Corps. Do you consider that it is fulfilling its purpose? If not, why? What suggestions have you to offer for its improvement?"

OR

"The present terms of service result in an OR being placed on the reserve at a young age and without any security of civil employment. Assuming that the period of colour service cannot be increased, what suggestions have you to offer for the provision of an element of security to the OR who is placed on the reserve immediately on completion of his colour service with particular reference to Signal categories."

RULES

The competition is open to all Corps of Signals Junior Commissioned officers and other Ranks serving in the Corps or those on the reserve list.

All essays must be either typed or hand written in a legible form. They should not exceed 2,000 words.

Essays will be written in English or in Hindi.

The competition will be held in units in the first instance when every JCO and NCO will be required to write the essay. The Commanding Officer of each unit will then select the three best essays and submit them to the Editor, The Signalman c/o School of Signals, Mhow by 1 November 56.

The essay must be strictly annonymous and must be under the pseudonym of the competitor. Each essay must be accompanied by a sealed envelope with the pseudonym written on the outside and the name of the competitor inside the envelope.

The National Defence Academy

By

2/Lt. MANJIT SINGH GUJRAL

"An army cadet has a naval quarter deck as his saluting base, and he may well pursue aero-modelling as his hobby. A naval cadet learns the virtue of route marches and for his further edification gets flown in an IAF aircraft. An air force cadet handles the rifle as a matter of routine and often becomes the leading figure of the Seafarers club, mastering intricate knots and splices. All three types of cadets dress and salute alike, and learn to live and play together, subconsciously becoming inter-services minded." This quotation for which I am indebted to somebody else, exemplifies the spirit and working of the National Defence Academy.

The NDA was conceived in 1945 as a war memorial and was formally opened in 1955 by the Prime Minister. Construction work has not yet been completed and it is anticipated that this will take another two years. The NDA is already an imposing structure, thanks to the combined efforts of architects, engineers and horticulturists. Some of the blocks which deserve special mention are the administrative buildings, the science laboratories and the mess which is equipped with everything from iron "*Tawas*" to automatic dish-washers. The drill square, sacred to cadets, never fails to impress the visitor who gazes in awe at the vastness of it all, and at the Quarter-deck saluting base, almost expecting a strident voice to bawl at him for loitering about! Additions still to be made include a museum, a library, a stadium with a capacity of 5000, and a glider-drome. Only a few furlongs away from this modern structure of steel and concrete lie some interesting ruins of ancient history, mute testimony to the mortal conflict between the Moghals and the Marathas. The cost of building the NDA is estimated at 70 million rupees and it will not be out of place to mention that the Sudan government contributed £70,000 as a mark of appreciation for the gallantry shown by Indian troops in the Western desert.

Probably the most important lesson brought out by the last war was the vital necessity for the three services to work jointly. None could fight without the most intimate co-operation from the other two. India, therefore, decided that the best place to teach this lesson was at the very start of an officer's career and the germ of the NDA was born. Upto now India is the only state which has put this idea into practice, though the NDA has been widely acclaimed by competent military authority in almost every country.

The selection of cadets is very different to what it used to be in pre-war days. Now it is based on merit and every youth in the country is given an equal chance to prove his worth. All aspirants to the NDA, provided they fulfil basic conditions regarding age and minimum qualifications, are required to pass an examination held by the Union Public Services Commission. If successful, they are interviewed by a services selection board and are medically examined; final entry depends upon the position secured in the examination. The course is of three years duration. During the first two years the cadets get combined instruction, irrespective of their future service. However, in the third year about 50% of the training is devoted to the service selected, the remainder of the course being the same.

The academy has a Major-General Commandant at the helm of affairs. He is assisted by a deputy commandant, a civilian principal and a Colonel incharge of administration. These officers are responsible for military training, academic studies and administration, respectively. The Academy is organised into three battalions, the battalion commanders being drawn from each service and having the equivalent rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Incidently, the battalion commanders are also the chief instructors of their particular service. Each battalion is scheduled to have four squadrons, but at present there are only ten in all. Very soon, when the full quota of cadets comes in, the number of squadrons will be raised to twelve. Each squadron in turn is divided into three divisions. To train cadets to carry out administrative work, officers on the staff of the NDA deal primarily with matters

Obituaries

Lt. Col. H. K. BHAGWAT

Lt. Col. H. K. Bhagwat

On 13 January 1956 the Corps of Signals lost a very valuable member when Lt. Col. H. K. Bhagwat fell victim to the unkind knife of an ex-cook in his regiment. On that evening, the cook, who had been earlier discharged being of undesirable character, hid himself near Lt Col Bhagwat's bungalow. When this officer and his wife returned from a walk, the assailant sprang from his hiding place and fatally stabbed Hari Bhagwat. So died an innocent man in the prime of life.

Hari Bhagwat was born in Satara district in 1919. He completed his early schooling in Poona, and then joined Fergusson College in the same town. He was a Sergeant-Major in the UTC and achieved local fame by swimming the Mula river in Poona when it was in full spate.

By the time he graduated in 1940 the War was on and Hari wasted no time in joining up. He was commissioned in 1941 and posted to 14 Divisional Signal Regiment. During the War he served in Malaya and Burma, being promoted Captain in December 1943 and Acting Major in May 1945. He served in J & K during 1948 taking over command of a Divisional Signal Regiment at the end of the same year in the rank of Lt-Col.

The year 1949 saw him as the Deputy Commandant of the School of Signals, Mhow. The next year he was selected to attend the short Tele-Communication and Basic Signals Course in the UK. He went back to the School on his return in 1951 where he commanded 1 and 2 Wings alternately, before being selected for the 5th Staff College Course at Wellington in October 1951. Back he came to Mhow in September 1952 to take over 2 Wing. He thus had the unique distinction of being associated with the School throughout its formative years, having been Adm Officer in 1946. In December 1954 he successfully completed the Senior Officers Course at the Infantry School and took up his last appointment as OC Army HQ Signal Regiment in January 1955.

Hari Bhagwat was the sort of person one instinctively turned to when in trouble. He had a remarkable gentleness of manner which endeared him to everybody who knew him. Intelligent and humane, he could be firm when occasion demanded it. He was full of fun and many associates will remember the parties where Hari's humour sparkled forth, but never with even a suspicion of malice. He never betrayed anyone's trust and was singularly free from arrogance. You knew him and loved him, the one followed the other quite simply, he was that kind of person.

concerning policy and leave day to day administration to the cadets themselves. For this purpose the academy has an academy cadet captain and a cadet adjutant; each battalion has a battalion cadet captain and cadet adjutant and each squadron in turn has a squadron cadet captain, a cadet sergeant-major and so on. Most of these appointments are held by third year cadets, and these are the chaps responsible for introducing a civilian, fresh from college, to military life. Everybody is of the opinion that this system has worked very well indeed.

When a cadet first joins the Academy, he is bewildered by the number of things he has to do, with shortage of time his greatest enemy. A glance at his daily routine will be of interest. A cadet gets up at about 0530 hours in the morning and finishes his morning toilet by 0700 hours. From 0700 to 0900 he goes out and does his outdoor training, which includes physical training, weapon training, riding and most important of all, square-bashing. Then he gets an hour for gulping his breakfast and preparing for indoor classes. Now he studies various subjects such as English, mathematics, history, geography, drawing, carpentry and so on, until 1330 hrs, when he has his lunch. In the afternoon daily, administrative jobs are attended to, and in the evening he has to play games. After having a hurried bath the cadet will settle down for private study. This is compulsory, and is included to enable a cadet to do his homework and make up any leeway in his academic training. Dinner follows, which invariably takes an hour or so. The reader may think that the daily programme is finished now, but something is still to come — punishments !

All cadets who are unlucky enough to be caught out doing something wrong during the day are punished in the evening under senior cadets. Punishments vary with faults and may be anything from a boring lecture of 15 minutes duration to an hour of unpleasant fatigues, mixed with physical training. The longer a cadet stays at the NDA, the greater are the responsibilities he has to shoulder; his military training and academic studies increase in scope and subjects such as civics, economics, blacksmithy, etc., are introduced. However, the after-dinner punishments almost vanish by the time he reaches his fourth term and now it is time for him to act the policeman and dish it out.

Wednesdays and Saturdays are half holidays and on these days cadets get a chance to develop their hobbies. Excellent facilities are provided in this respect and the academy has a large number of clubs which include art, music, camera, nature-study, books, shooting, languages, fencing, skating and many others. On Sundays cadets are allowed to visit Poona. In addition to these clubs, cadets get a chance to play almost every game and facilities are provided for hockey, football, cricket, squash, tennis, basketball and volleyball to mention a few. Cycle polo is fast increasing in popularity. Everything in the NDA is done on the basis of one large, happy family and there is no discrimination of any sort.

I will conclude by writing the lines of a rousing song which typifies the spirit of the NDA — an institution of which I for one, am very proud.

From the snows of J & K
To the shores of Comorin,
We will fight our country's battles,
On the land and air and sea.

First to fight for right and freedom,
Then to keep one's honour clean,
We are proud to claim the title
Of the N D A's cream.

Here is health to you and our wing
Which we are proud to serve,
In many a strife we may loose our life
But we never loose our nerve.

If the army, air or navy
Were to look on heaven's scene,
You will find the streets well guarded
By the N D A's cream.

* * * *

My Hobby - Amateur Radio

By

2/Lt. R. SARAN

Ever since I was a boy, the world of radio fascinated me as nothing else could ever do. I used to sit for hours listening to a radio set belonging to my father, and wondering how it was that soft music could fill the room, coming from what was to me, little more than another piece of furniture. I used to turn various knobs and the music would change to speech or, at times, would result in crackle, unpleasant to hear. I longed for an opportunity to open the radio and see what was inside. But my elders, guessing my desires, prevented me from doing so. I asked various people how the radio worked, but nobody could give any sort of clear answer, and all I found out was that a radio was "electrical in nature".

I realised then, that if I was to satisfy my curiosity, I would have to find out something about electricity, circuits and the like. I also realised that the amount of electrical knowledge which I would need, depended on how far I was going to delve into the technicalities of what everybody assured me was a most difficult subject. I started reading books, but they were not of much use. The majority of what I read went over my head, perhaps this was my fault, because I tried to learn too much in too short a time. I now decided, and wisely as events proved, to limit my studies to very elementary stages, and build up my knowledge gradually. I obtained a very simple book entitled "Tuning without Tears", which gave me a good idea of the fundamentals of radio, and what was even more important, made me more interested in this subject. From here, I went on to Reyner's book on "Radio Communications". This was really my first love in life, and to this day remains one of my favourite books.

Theory, however, was all right in its way, but I was itching to obtain practical results. I, therefore, decided to have a crack at assembling a crystal receiver. I got hold of a headset from junk, making sure that it was in working order, managed to procure other material from similar sources and assembled my crystal receiver for a total cost of Rs. 9/-. I was delighted to find that my set actually worked, and mentally I elevated myself to the status of an electronics engineer! During night the set gave even better reception than it did during the day, and this further increased my enthusiasm.

It was inevitable now that I would take up the building of a set which used valves. I decided to make a start with a "two-valve affair", and obtained the circuit diagram from a magazine called "Hobbies". The HT supply in this set was a 45-volt battery. In this case, the components cost me Rs. 20/- as I still had some of my previous stores to make use of. I thoroughly enjoyed myself fitting the various components into place, using a soldering iron where necessary and solving as best as I could with my limited budget the many problems which arose, until the great day came when the set was ready for trial. I was tremendously excited about the whole business. I decided to play safe and test the set during the night when conditions for reception are fairly good. I spent the day in a fever of impatience, and when it became dark, I was all set to go. I had already connected the earth and the aerial, and the only thing left was to switch on the HT battery. At last! I switched on the set and waited for it to warm up. Minutes passed, but there was no sound. One full rotation of the variable condenser still failed to produce any results. I felt that the end of the world had come. Despondently I started checking for possible faults. The filament was glowing and apparently nothing seemed to be wrong. For three days I worked on the set, and it was only when I was about to admit to myself that I was no good at building radios that I found the plate not making proper contact with the HT battery. When this was righted, my brain-child worked! This was one of the happiest moments in my life.

I now joined the Military College at Dehra Dun and I said to myself that was the end of my hobby, as I doubted if I would get any time to work on it. As it happened, it was the other way round. The Military College has its own radio club, and the facilities provided

to gentlemen cadets interested in amateur radio are far in excess of anything I could hope to buy out of my own limited resources. The club is organised into three sections — workshop, HAM and morse. Arrangements exist in the workshop section to provide set kits to those cadets who wish to assemble radios. An excellent reference library and proper guidance is also available to anybody who cares to make use of them. Here I assembled a three-valve 90-volt loudspeaker set. My work was simplified because various tools, testing equipment, and so on, were readily available, and the finished product gave me very good service. My favourite stations, Delhi and Jullunder, were picked up loud and clear!

I have had a lot of fun out of this hobby, and it has been primarily responsible for my finally landing up in Signals. Already I find that this hobby has made it easier for me to grasp the technical instructions imparted and it also gives me something to look forward to when I will be on my own in a unit. My own experience has been that it is difficult to overcome the initial inertia one is prone to, in connection with examining the inside of a radio set. But once this is done, the hobby becomes fascinating and pays rich dividends. I, for one, am determined that if I can help some other young aspirant with advice or guidance in the field of set construction, I shall be most happy to do so.

* * * *

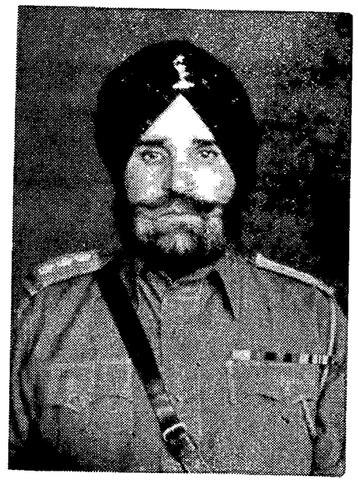
OUTSTANDING ATHLETES

Naik Kasim has made his mark in the world of athletics. Highlights of his sporting career are given below :—

			Position obtained
Bihar Olympics 1948			
Hop Step and Jump	—	44′-11″	1st
Long Jump	—	22′-3¼″	1st
High Jump	—	5′-10″	1st
Bihar Olympics 1949			
Long Jump	—	22′- 8″	1st
High Jump	—	5′- 9″	1st
Interservices 1951-52			
Hop Step and Jump	—	44′-11½″	2nd
Long Jump	—	22′- 1″	3rd
All India 1954			
Long Jump	—	22′	4th
Western Comd. Meet 1955-56			
Long Jump	—	22′- 5″	2nd

He joined the Army in 1941 and is now 37 years of age — too old perhaps to create further records, but with a fund of achievements and memories to look back on.

Our Corps Veterans



Capt. Khushhal Singh

Born on 6 Feb. 1904 in the district of Rawalpindi (West Pakistan), Capt. Khushhal Singh was enrolled in the Corps of Signals on 6 Feb. 1926.

He was appointed P/L/Nk. on 2 Jul. 1933, promoted Naik on 1 Jun. 1934, Havildar on 2 Apr. 1937, Jemadar on 1 Aug. 1940 and Subedar on 23 Feb. 1942. He was granted an Emergency Commission as Lieutenant on 19 May 1944 and rose to the rank of Captain on 27 Jan. 1945. He has served in Peshawar Dist. Sigs, ST Bn, 3 MTR, 9 MTR, STC Jabalpur and 1 Armd Div. Sig. Regt.

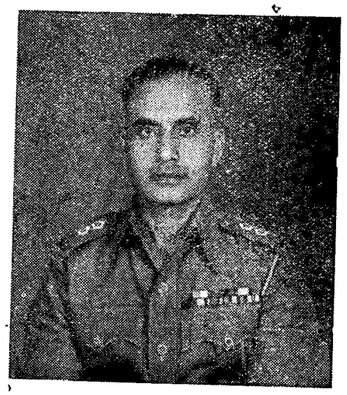
An officer with a high sense of duty, he was endowed with team spirit and very proud of the Corps. Having risen from the ranks himself, he thoroughly understood the problems of the men he commanded and they could always obtain his sympathetic help and guidance.

He retired on 31 Dec. 55 after a service of nearly 30 years. We wish him a long lease of happy retired life and look forward to meeting him again at Corps birthday celebrations and similar functions.

* * * * *

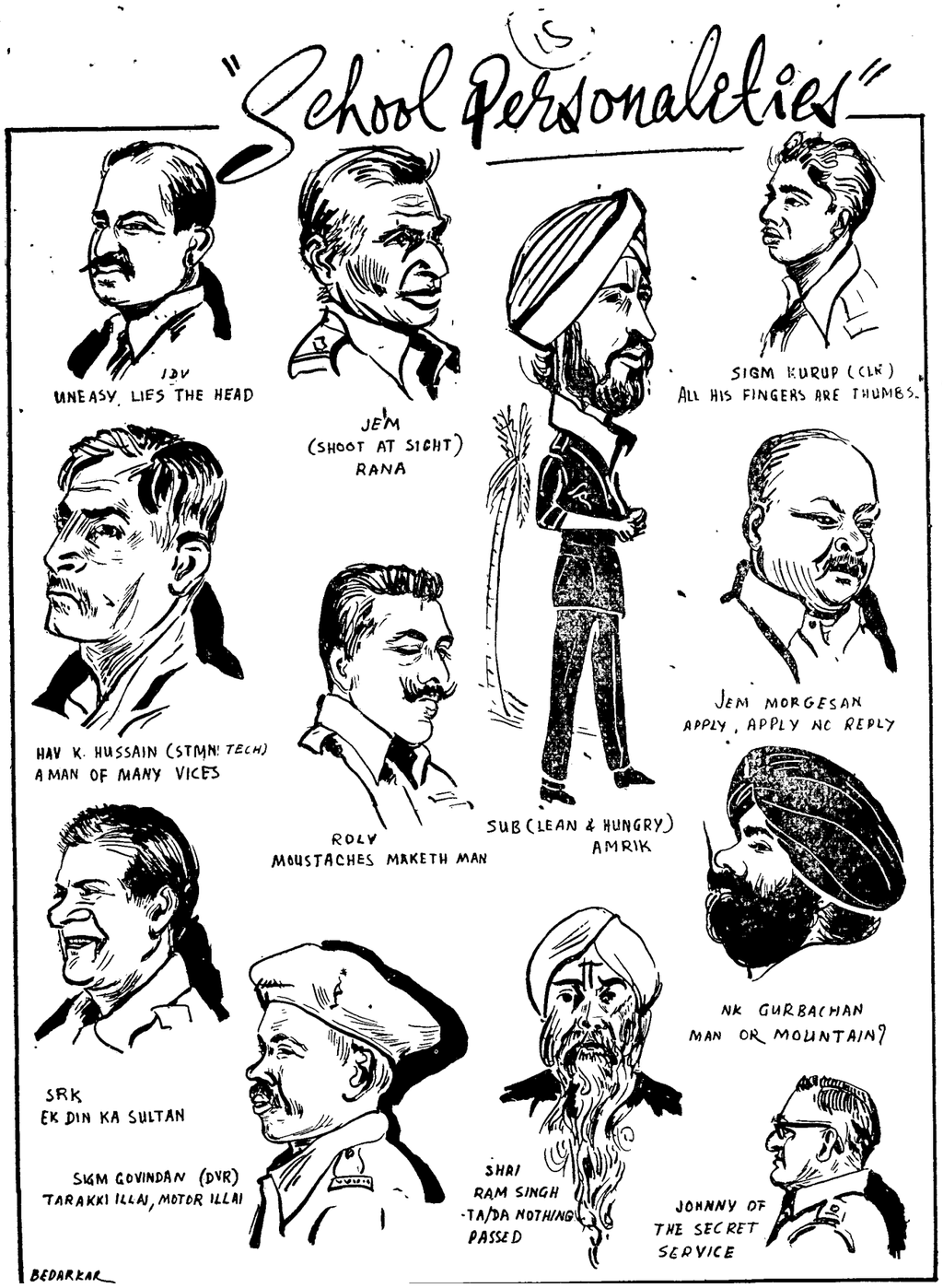
On 4 March a traveller on Mhow railway station would have found it difficult to move along the platform for it was crowded with Officers, JCOs and OR who had assembled to say good-bye to one of the pillars of the Corps. As the train started pulling out, a full-throated cry of 'Mast Ram Sahib ki jai' filled the air and thus departed for civilian life a soldier with 27 years of service. Sub-Maj. Mast Ram joined the Corps on 3 January 1929 and got his first stripe in 1935. After that he climbed steadily upward and by 1939 Hav Mast Ram makes his appearance.

The war broke out and opportunities for promotion increased. It was Jem Mast Ram in 1941 and ten years later the key appointment of Sub-Maj was his enviable lot. During all these years he had seen considerable active service in the NWFP (Mohmand Operations), Waziristan and SEAC. Inevitably too, a number of units could claim his services — Kohat District Signals, 'R' L of C Signals, Boys Regiment and many more.



Sub. Maj. & Hony. Lieut. Mast Ram

In 1955 Sub-Maj Mast Ram received just recognition of his valuable services when the honours list granted an Honorary Lieutenancy to this fine soldier. Sub-Maj Mast Ram can best be described as a gentleman, in the true sense of the word— he was thoroughly loyal and dependable. The Other Ranks loved him, for they knew that here was a man who had their well-being uppermost and one who would not be afraid to speak his mind — the send-off he received bears eloquent testimony to this. Sub-Maj Mast Ram now proposes to take part in National Development Schemes in his own district (Kangra). We venture to predict that he will do equally well in civilian life; we hope further that he will burden the pensions department for many, many years to come.



In a low definition system, used by the BBC, there are 30 lines per picture and 12½ pictures per second.

It is difficult to get sufficient light through the minute hole in the disc for the photo cell to respond, and much attention has been devoted towards better scanning systems.

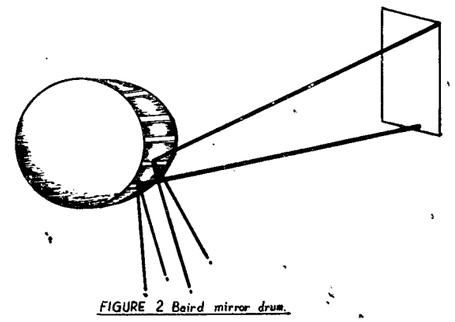


FIGURE 2 Baird mirror drum.

Baird's Mirror Drum

Baird's low definition system in vogue for some years, used a mirror drum (Figure 2). This is a wheel carrying on its edge as many parallel strips of mirrors as there are scanning lines. Each is set at a slightly different angle, so that when it turns, the beam of light projected on its edge is reflected by the mirrors in a series of vertical lines, which stand side by side in the same way as when produced by the Nipkow disc. This system is called mechanical scanning, but it has its limitations.

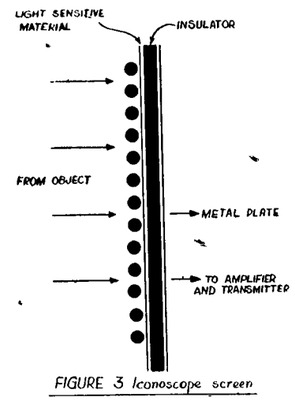


FIGURE 3 Iconoscope screen

Modern Methods of Scanning

As the old system of 30-line scanning does not result in well-defined images, the Television Committee recommended a minimum of 240 lines for commercial use. Methods other than mechanical scanning had to be devised for this purpose.

The chief difficulty in high definition scanning is to collect enough energy from each of the picture elements in the brief moment allowed for the purpose. This difficulty was ingeniously overcome by Zworykin, a pioneer in television, by the invention of what is called the "Iconoscope". A metal screen (Figure 3) is coated with light sensitive material in the form of millions of separate tiny specks. Each in effect is a photo-cell. The other side of the screen is insulated by a tiny film. There is another metal backing, which forms a condenser. The subject is focussed by a camera on to this screen. Each grain of material begins emitting electrons to an extent proportional to the intensity of light falling on that particular spot. When electrons are given out, the spot becomes deficient of negative electricity and the condenser gets charged positively. The screen is within a cathode ray tube.

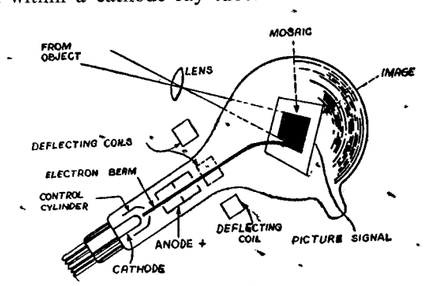


FIGURE 4 Iconoscope

Digressing a little, this cathode ray tube (Figure 4) consists of a cathode which, when heated, provides a supply of electrons. There are anodes and various electrodes in the narrow part of the tube and, applying the desired potential, electrons can be made to move faster towards the other end of the tube. There is a hole at the centre of the anode, which provides a narrow electron beam. This electron beam can be deflected up or down with the use of deflecting coils. This beam scans the picture formed on the screen in the usual way. This

(18)

to some extent, neutralizes the positive charge on the condenser and a current proportional to the remaining charge on the condenser plates flows in the circuit. This is connected to an amplifier and transmitted.

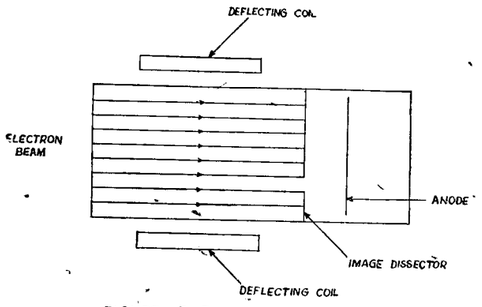


FIGURE 5 Fansworth image dissector

Fansworth Image Dissector

The other method recommended by the Television Committee is the use of an American invention called after its inventor the Fansworth Image Dissector (Figure 5), which includes an electron camera and an electron multiplier. Like the Iconoscope, it provides facilities for focussing on a light sensitive surface. The electron image formed is an exact replica of the subject. The whole beam is made to travel downwards. To prevent a break in the electron track, and to ensure that electrons are emitted in parallel lines, the space along which they

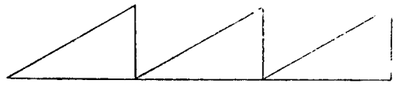


FIGURE 6 Saw tooth current

pass is magnetised. When any portion of the image crosses the hole in the dissector, the electrons are incident on the anode, which is connected to the amplifier. This causes variations of the current in the circuit. The whole beam is then suddenly deflected back and gradually passed across the hole again. For this, a saw-tooth form of current is used (Figure 6). In order to increase the current viz the electron emission, a device called the electron multiplier (Figure 7) is used. This device was first used by Zworykin. The first cathode emits a certain number of electrons and, when these strike the next one, several more are emitted and so it goes on, till they reach the anode where the signal is tapped. In the case of the image dissector, we have two or three cathodes and the multiple electrons emitted by these cathodes are tapped off by an anode in the form of a ring.

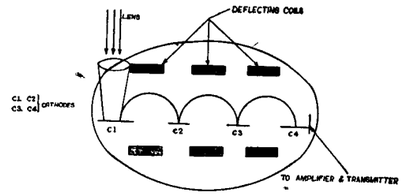


FIGURE 7 Electron multiplier

A type considered to be an improvement over these methods of scanning was developed by Bedford and Puckle and made use of velocity modulation. Here, the variations in the intensity of light on the cathode ray screen are obtained, not by varying the intensity of the scanning ray itself, but by varying its velocity. If a ray is made to trace the usual scanning pattern over the screen and is speeded up over dark parts and slowed down over the bright spots of the image, the picture is reproduced without any necessity for varying the intensity of the ray.

Synchronization

Synchronization signals are sent when the spot of light reaches the end of the horizontal line. This is to ensure that the frequencies of each of the deflecting signals at the receiver are accurately aligned with the transmitting scanner. In other words, to ensure that when the spot of light at the transmitting end begins at the top right-hand corner of the frame, the spot at the receiving end does the same, the rate of movement must be the same. If synchronizing is not exact, the picture will not be correctly framed.

Picture and Line Frequency

From what has been said, the necessity for scanning in television will be appreciated. If we merely illuminated the face of a person in a picture and allowed the light to fall on the photo-cell, the latter's response would be a steady one, depending on the total illumination. Hence, the picture must be split up into small portions to get separate light and shade effects.

(16)

The Principles of Television

By

Shri K. S. KRISHNA SWAMI

Introduction

The more one studies recent developments, the more one is convinced that high definition television is one of the outstanding scientific and engineering achievements of our time. Its advancement has been so great that it is not possible for one to deal with the matter comprehensively in a short article. Therefore, it is proposed to deal concisely only with fundamentals and certain systems that are of particular interest.

The principle involved is similar to radio broadcasting in which sound impulses are converted into electrical variations, which are again converted into sound waves at the receiving end. In television, light variations are converted into electrical variations and again corresponding light variations are obtained at the receiving end.

The use of the Photo Electric Cell

The photo electric cell, about which one hears so much these days, is used at the transmitting station. It consists of two electrodes, one anode and a cathode, the latter being treated with a special type of material. When light falls on the cathode, a current is set up in the circuit, due to emission of electrons. If the intensity of the light falling on the cathode is increased, more current flows. Thus it can be used to control the current. To cause these light variations, that is, the light and shade effect, the picture has to be transmitted piecemeal. A portion of the picture is illuminated by a spot of light, and the light reflected from it falls on the photo-electric cell, in which a current is established. The spot is allowed to move along a line. When the spot occupies the dark and bright portions of the picture, the intensity of the reflected light varies, resulting in corresponding electrical signals. In some scanners (scanning is the process by which the spot of light is made to traverse the object) the spot is made to move horizontally, in some vertically. In the case of people being televised, the spot is made to move along the longer portion of the subject. Of course, in the case of certain persons who are more wide than tall, horizontal scanning may be adopted! We shall now examine the apparatus used for this purpose.

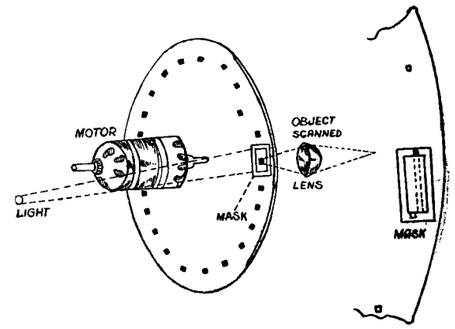


FIGURE 1 Nipkow disc

The Scanning Disc

What deserves to be called the classical method of scanning is one in which a perforated rotating disc, called after its inventor, Nipkow, is used. Figure 1 shows the arrangement of holes in spiral form. Imagine at a certain instant that the disc is in such a position that there is a hole at the right-hand bottom corner of the frame. As the wheel rotates, the spot of light travels up the edge of the frame, successively revealing further parts of the scene in its journey. The parts are so constructed that, just as one hole passes beyond the area of the frame, the next one comes on to it slightly displaced sideways, by an amount equal to the width of the spot, so that this spot traces an entirely new area. The third comes next, and so on, until the whole of the subject has been scanned. Obviously, the number of scanning lines per revolution of the disc is equal to the number of holes in the disc and the number of pictures scanned per second is equal to the number of rotations of the disc per second.

The more the number of picture elements, the clearer the definition. Low definition consists of about 30 lines and 12½ pictures per second; medium about 100 lines and high definition over 100 lines—usually 240 lines per picture and 25 pictures per second. The picture's size is usually in the proportion of 4:3. In low definition there are 12½ pictures per second. This is called picture frequency. Each picture has 30 lines. Hence, 30 x 12½ = 375 lines are traced per second. This is called line frequency. In high definition, it is 240 x 25 = 6000 lines per second.

Choice of Frequency

We now come to another aspect of frequency in connection with television. In sound broadcasting, as we all know, each station is given a certain frequency for its carrier wave and is expected to adhere to it to avoid interference with other stations. For example the carrier wave for Madras station is 4920 Kcs. Suppose an artist in front of a microphone 'modulates' the carrier by producing a note of 1200 cs frequency, this would result in our having a frequency range of 4921200 to 4918800 cs. The simple modulation by the artist in question has caused a big frequency spread in the ether. Now, for the next station the frequency range must be beyond this to avoid interference. So, in broadcasting a station space of 9 Kcs tc accommodate modulation is accepted.

Let us now consider a spot of light scanning a picture of proportion 4:3 having 240 lines and a picture frequency of 25. For simplicity, we shall assume that the picture has alternate squares that are dark. In the horizontal line there will be 240 x 4/3=320 squares or picture elements. Thus, in scanning the first line 320 squares will be covered; when the spot is across a bright patch there will be more current and when it is against a dark patch there will be less current. Thus, in 320 squares there will be 160 rises and 160 falls in the current which in other words will have a frequency of 160 cs. As there are 240 lines, there will be 240 x 160 =38,400 cs. Since the picture frequency is 25, there will be 38,400 x 25 = 960,000 cs, ie 960 Kcs. This represents the modulating frequency in television as compared to 1200 cs in broadcasting. In actual practice it is still more, because the modulating frequency is 1067,000 cs or 1067 Kcs. Suppose there are 120 stations, each with a frequency range of 9 Kcs, between two points, A and B. The frequency range between A and B will be 1080 Kcs. We can hear 120 stations without interference in this range. But in television, the single modulation frequency itself is 1067000 cs or 1067 Kcs, ie, nearly 120 times the broadcasting station spread of 9 Kcs. This means that in the full range between A and B there will be only a single modulating frequency. But for a frequency range of a station, there must be 1067 Kcs on both sides of the carrier frequency. From this one gets an idea of the communication channel necessary for one television station.

Apart from this, the whole ether in this particular range is crowded by sound waves. Hence, television cannot be transmitted on ordinary wireless waves.

But fortunately there is plenty of elbow room in the ether if we utilise the very short waves ie ultra short waves or waves below 10 metres in length. Hence, television transmission is carried out on ultra short waves.

But there is a feature about these ultra short waves, which cause a certain difficulty, ie their range is short. These ultra short waves can be received only upto a distance of 25 miles and to cater for the whole country a large number of transmitters are required, one for every 25 miles radius.

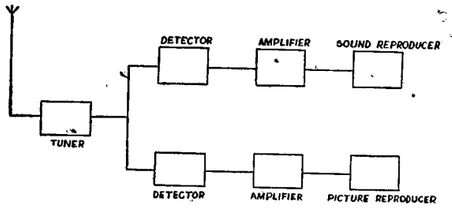


FIGURE 8 Receiver

Receiver

Of immediate interest to the public is the sort of receiver required. The receivers must be designed so as to eliminate every kind of distortion, for the eye is a good deal less easily deceived than the ear. Generally, only one aerial is needed and the first part of the receiver may be common to sound and vision (Figure 8). Further on, however, the signals are sorted out and amplified separately until the sound signal is strong enough to work a loudspeaker; the synchronizing signal should be strong enough to control the pace of the scanning

Moron Mess

(This great work of art was composed by Capt. C. C. Bakshi in one of his less sober moments. It remained hidden in the scrap-book of Lt-Col. B. S. Panwar for seven years when chance revealed its treasures to a startled world. It refers to the Officers Mess 2 Airborne Div. Sig. Regt in 1949).

Our mess is a crowd of jolly good blokes.
We are sweet sixteen some young some old,
A team contented, courageous and bold,
Some are seasoned, others younger folk,
Combined we make a wheel with many a spoke.
Our mess is a crowd of jolly good blokes.

"Victor" is the youngest, a fresh from school,
"Roly & Nando" still trying to learn our rules.
Well built, and collosal food they consume,
Have left Govind hungry to fret and fume.
Our mess is a crowd of jolly good blokes.

"Mukka" is the member who gives us the food;
Will turn out the best, provided in the mood.
Rice and chapati—mutton and pork,
So delicious you forego spoon and fork.
Our mess is a crowd of jolly good blokes.

"Sher" was the one who loves an English menu
Now gets a backing from Lt. "Mousineu".
"Shammi" is the one we got from Ranchi, folks,
You'll laugh yourself silly with all his crude jokes.
Our mess is a crowd of jolly good blokes.

"Sanky" is a master whom Rum provokes to act,
When asked a question he'll say "200 precent correct".
"Lachchhoo" has left us—he was quite a good sport,
Though now that he's gone, the drinks never are short.
Our mess is a crowd of jolly good blokes.

"Bakshi", the cipher king, is really a scream,
Despite great fat, he calls himself slim.
By avocation his domain is within four walls,
But he pretends to try his hand with a stick and a ball.
Our mess is a crowd of jolly good blokes.

"Bhide", is gentle, unmarried,—one of our saints,
He neither drinks nor smokes, yet at times he faints.
No one will give him a girl unless he notes,
Father in Law wants boy perfect in all posts.
Our mess is a crowd of jolly good blokes.

"Budhrani" came to us with great surprise,
Started narrating his Delhi Enterprise.
"Mohan" was the life of all of us folks,
And many the time, when the mess has been hoaxed!
Our mess is a crowd of jolly good blokes.

Our "Gobind" is pretty, slim & tall,
Has done many a thing behind a wall.
Tries to conceal something, although the mess knows,
A trunk call from Delhi puts him right on his toes.
Our mess is a crowd of jolly good blokes.

"Kulu" is our master who says "Love knows no caste,"
Often seen repenting expliots in the past.
To this very problem he has a different approach,
And in the arts of a lover, he needs no coach.
Our mess is a crowd of jolly good blokes.

Next comes "Birendra", the one who is spare,
Has a secret in Jab, but that he won't share.
To support his own view, never he invokes,
Is keen to play Bridge, but is paying revokes.
Our mess is a crowd of jolly good blokes.

"Andy" is the one we love the most,
The mess less "Andy", is a party without a host.
A chronic Bachelor, found of Johnny Walker,
Never ran in his life, but what a fine talker.
Our mess is a crowd of jolly good blokes.

The skipper is our "Hari", captain of the team,
Is keen on removing our fat and our spleen.
To him a walk of 20 miles is often just a joke,
The pity is he drags along a few unwilling folk.
Our mess is a crowd of jolly good blokes.

* * * *

The SOs on demonstration were very keen to learn
For on the interest taken, a grading might be earned
Said a Signals Officer, "That's an indoor lineman now"
"From Indore" cried a student" Why not one from Mhow?

—SNM

apparatus and the light signal to control the source of light, making it bright or dark according to the portions of the subject being scanned at that moment.

The cathode ray tube, which is used in some form or the other in electrical laboratories, can be used for television receivers. The use of some of the parts of the tube has already been covered by the 'Iconoscope'. The tube is made of glass and looks like a conical flask with a narrow neck. The diameter of the large end is about 6 to 14 inches. The inside of the end is coated with fluorescent material. When electrons are incident on the screen, that portion glows. The electrons emitted by the cathode move with high velocity and by the application of the desired potential to the electrodes situated at the narrow portion of the tube, the electron beam can be made very narrow, only a spot of light being visible on the screen. The spot is used to do the scanning to build up the picture on the large end. Owing to a convenient defect in the eyes, we are unable to follow the motion of the electron spot, and the whole picture appears to be illuminated at the same time.

Another feature about ultra short waves is that, apart from giving well-defined pictures, the quality of the tone produced is good. Atmospherics are happily unnoticeable and interference from other stations is not a problem

Colour Television

In view of the fact that even to-day it cannot be claimed that the technique of monochromatic television is really established, it is surprising that colour television was demonstrated as long ago as 1928.

Imagine for the sake of simplicity, that we are using the Nipkow disc for scanning and in front of the arc source of light we put three colour filters, say, red, green and blue, so arranged that, during the first scan, the red glass is in front of the arc, during the second the green glass, and during the third, the blue glass. An automatic device can be arranged to keep up the regular movement of the filters in and out of position as required. Thus, the object would be scanned in succession by red, green and blue lights. During the red scan, only red parts of the object would reflect light to the photo-cell, and similarly with the green and blue scans.

At the receiver, the same three filters, red, green and blue, would be so arranged in front of the lamp that they automatically come into position in step with the changes at the transmitter. Thus, when the red scan is taking place at the transmitter, the red filter would be in position at the receiver, giving the picture the red parts, which are reflecting red light from the object scanned. The same would apply to the other filters. Owing to the limitations of persistence of vision, however, the eye would not see separate colour pictures. It would combine the impressions and see a complete picture containing all the colours in their proper position and proportions.

The commonly accepted idea as to the maximum range of ultra short waves was about 25 miles. In fact, later researches and experiments have confirmed greater distance transmission, going upto 50-55 miles. Further research is being carried out, and it is hoped that in the near future television will be established as an important public service all over the world.

* * * *

SARAH

Sarah (short for search, rescue and homing) is a radio beacon which transmits a coded pulse to guide searching aircraft onto aircrash survivors, shipwrecked seamen or stranded soldiers. It consists of a beacon weighing 20 ozs, with a 32 oz battery. This is a British device which can transmit for 20 hours with a maximum range of 66 miles to aircraft flying at 10,000 feet. A further transmitter/receiver capable of operating submerged and attached to the lifebelt enable the survivor and rescuer to talk at close range.

Crocodile Hunting In Bhuj

By

Capt. JAIPAL

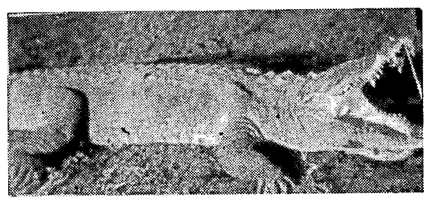
All the officers were sitting in the mess one day, when I strolled in wearing rather a natty pair of crocodile skin walking-shoes. The CO was particularly impressed and wishing to present a crocodile-skin purse to his wife, promptly detailed me to obtain the raw material! This was how I got a fortnight's leave and set about planning the shooting trip. The first thing I did was to get hold of Sigmn Devasagayam who had accompanied me on previous shikar expeditions and was keen on coming out again. We decided to visit Bhuj (Kutch) since somebody told us that there were plenty of crocodiles in that area.

We reached Bhuj after a long, weary and dusty journey. We now got hold of some chaps called "Wagris" who relish the flesh of a crocodile and are therefore, the best people to say where these creatures can be found. One of them told us that a tank about 10 miles from Bhuj was teeming with crocs.

On reaching destination, however, I was annoyed and disappointed to find that there were no crocs to be seen and the tank being very shallow, there was no possibility of coming across any later.

Anyhow Devasagayam and I looked all over the place, and along a small river, but had to return to the camp without seeing anything. All shikaris know what one feels like when there is no hope of any game especially in a far away place. In the camp, however, I met a man called 'Beesa". He told me that he knew a spot where there was a good chance of finding crocs. I shook hands with him on hearing the good news and told him I had to get some crocs at any cost.

Beesa and I reached the new place which was about 6 miles away, in the afternoon. He made me take cover behind a bush, which overlooked the bank of a river. The river was stagnant but the water was deep and had spread to a distance of 200 yards. We saw two small crocs about 4 feet in length basking on the edge of the bank. I told Beesa to stay behind and started approaching cautiously. When I reached the place from where I had planned to take a shot, I saw with surprise that there were no crocs, and both had slipped into the water. Beesa had been spotted by the crocs who had silently submerged. Bad luck! I called Beesa and told him to sit behind a bush and carry on smoking bidies, but not to get up or move. I decided to sit behind cover at one side of the bank, and wait for any croc which may come out again. I saw something move on the surface of the water, and it was a croc! He started slowly coming out, turning to the right as he did so and this resulted in a fine target facing me. I aimed the rifle on his head and pulled the trigger. At the shot he opened his mouth, turned, and tried to get into the water again. I crashed home two more bullets and he collapsed. He measured 3 feet in length, and we returned in triumph to the camp.



Wagu-Wagu

Next morning we went to the same site again. We walked far up the river and covered a distance of over 16 miles. We did not have any food during that day. We did not see any crocs along the river, so we came back to the place where I had shot the first one. I had a good look round but did not see anything. Suddenly old Beesa cried "*Wagu-Wagu*" which means croc. I cautioned him to be quiet and asked him to show me where. The croc was about 4 feet in length lying with its mouth open, fast asleep. The range about fifty yards, and I would have to hit him in the side of the neck, a target only about two inches square. I held my breath and pulled the trigger. I hit him in exactly the right spot and he did not move an inch. Two crocs in two days — not bad going.

Personal Call

Marriages

Brig. B. S. Bhagat — 3[illegible]56 at Calcutta
Capt. K. V. Raghvan — 7 Feb 56 at New Delhi
Capt. Jayu Deshpande
2/Lt. R. S. Nair — 27 Mar 56 at Travancore
Sigmn P. Krishnan Nair — 19 Jan 56 at Perumkadavila

Births

Capt. Saldhana — Daughter on 12 Feb 56
Capt. Subramanian — Daughter on 25 Jan 56
Capt. J. C. Anand — Daughter
Capt. Gopal Dass — Daughter on 8 Nov 55
Capt. S. S. Brar — son on 20 Nov 55
Lt. Aurora — Daughter on 10 Nov 55
Jem Devi Chand — son
Hav Sudesh Kumar — Daughter 4 Mar 56

Promotions

To Major :
Capt. Gurdial Singh

To Paid Acting Subedar Major :
Sub L. Gopal Swamy Naidu
Sub N. R. Jacob

To Paid Acting Subedar :
Jem T. S. Kushallapa
Jem Karam Singh
Jem C. Prabhakaran Unni Nair
Jem Sunka Ram
Jem Ram Raj
Jem A. C. R. Nambiar
Jem Joginder Singh
Jem Atma Singh
Jem Ishar Singh

To Jemadar :
RHM Amar Singh
CHM Velayudham
CHM K. John
CHM Kishore
CQMH Bishan Singh
CQMH Dalel Singh
CQMH Gurcharan Singh
Hav Gurdev Singh
Hav Atma Singh
Hav Ishar Singh
Hav Kewal Singh
Hav Amar Singh
Hav Shamsher Singh
Hav Ajit Singh
Hav R. Subramaniam
Hav Ram Singh

Retirements

Capt. Khushhal Singh
Capt. G. P. Sehgal
Sub Maj. & Hony. Lt. Mast Ram
Sub Lal Singh
CHM Nazar Singh
CHM Prem Chand
Hav Balwant Singh
L/Hav Bansi Lal
L/Nk V. Manickam

* * * *

AUDREY

The Americans have developed a robot instrument called "Audrey". This determines automatically any number from 0 to 10 which may be spoken into it. Audrey is capable of controlling operations such as dialling. In future, therefore, it will be possible to put phone calls through automatically, by merely speaking the number into a mouthpiece instead of dialling it.

(26)

मनी आर्डर

लेखक : श्री मदनलाल गुप्ता

द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध चल रहा था। उस दिन गाँव के पटवारी रामलाल का लड़का, रोशनलाल फिरोजपुर छावनी से डेढ़ माह की छुट्टी लेकर दो साल के बाद घर आया था। गाँव के कई लोग उससे मिलने को आए। वह इन्हें फौज की बातें बताता जिन्हें ग्रामीण बड़े चाव से सुनते।

शाम को गाँव के जमीनदार का लड़का नाथ भी रोशन से मिलने गया। अपने विद्यार्थी जीवन में वे एक दूसरे के प्रगाढ़ मित्र थे। बहुत दिनों के बाद इकट्ठे मिले थे वे, इसलिए काफी समय रात तक परस्पर वार्तालाप करते रहे। रोशन ने बताया कि किस प्रकार उसके मामा ने उसे भरती करवाया और किस प्रकार उसने तीन वर्ष की नौकरी में ही जमादार की पदवी प्राप्त कर ली। नाथ ने भी देखा कि रोशन जो भरती होने से पहले बिलकुल दुबला और अधमरा सा था, अब काफी मोटा ताजा हो गया है और पैंट कोट के सिवा बात नहीं करता। नाथ सोचने लगा कि वह भरती होकर रोशन से कहीं अच्छा पद प्राप्त कर सकता है। वह रोशन से अधिक बलवान है और पढ़ा लिखा भी तो उससे कम नहीं। उसे गाँव के जीवन से घृणा होने लगी। गाँव में बीमार पड़ने पर डॉक्टर तो रहा, वैद्य हकीम तक नहीं मिलता। गाँव की गलियाँ हैं कि जरा सी वर्षा पर कीचड़ ही कीचड़ से भर जाती हैं। यदि बीस दिन चमक कर धूप पड़ती है तो सिवाय गरदे और मिट्टी के कुछ नजर नहीं आता। गाँव के किसी भी ओर बाहर निकलो तो गोबर के बड़े बड़े ढेरों की बदबू नाक में भर जाती है। कोई ही ऐसा भाग्यशाली वर्ष जाता है जब कि मलेरिया ज्वर के प्रकोप से दो चार दर्जन मृत्यु न होती हों। और अगर कभी हैजा या चेचक दौरा कर जाए तो संख्या सैकड़ों तक पहुँच जाती है। उसने सोंचा कि नौकर होकर वह बड़े बड़े शहरों की सैर करेगा अच्छी साफ सुथरी छावनियों में रहेगा, वहाँ पर चिकित्सा का भी उचित प्रबन्ध होगा अतः उसके सिर पर भरती होने का भूत सवार हो गया।

रात भर वह यही सोचता रहा कि भरती होकर वह सरकारी गाड़ियों में दूर दूर देशों का भ्रमण करेगा। जहाँ भी वह जाएगा उसे रहने के लिये सरकारी क्वार्टर मिलेंगे, खाने आदि की उसे कोई चिन्ता न होगी और जब वह अपनी बड़ी बड़ी मूंछों को ताव देकर, कंधे पर बन्दूक रखकर रोड मार्च के लिये निकलेगा तो कितना अच्छा जवान नजर आएगा। इसी प्रकार के और कई विचार उसके मन में आते रहे।

पड़ोसियों के मुर्गे ने अभी पहली ही आवाज दी थी कि नाथ की नींद खुल गई। कपड़े पहन कर जूता उसने हाथ में इसलिये ले लिया कि पदचाप से कहीं घर का कोई व्यक्ति जाग न पड़े। अगले कुछ क्षणों में वह रोशन के साथ स्यालकोट छावनी की ओर बढ़ा जा रहा था। नाथ का अच्छा स्वास्थ्य तथा दसवीं पास का प्रमाण पत्र देखकर उसे सीधा हवलदार भरती कर लिया गया। नाथ बड़ा खुश था।

भरती होने के पश्चात् नाथ को घर वालों से मिलने के लिये दो दिन की छुट्टी मिली। नाथ के भरती हो जाने का पता जब घर वालों को चला तो वे दुःखी हुए। सती आज प्रातःकाल से ही किसी से न बोली, मानो उसने मौन धारण कर लिया हो। नाथ की पत्नी का नाम तो स्वर्णलता था परन्तु नाथ उसका नाम बदल कर उसे सती के नाम से पुकारता था। वह भी इस नाम से नहीं चिढ़ती थी और शायद यही कारण था कि बाकी घर वाले भी उसे सती कह कर ही पुकारते थे।

चले जाने से पहले नाथ सती का मौन तोड़ना चाहता था, विदा होने से पहले उसे ढाढ़स बंधाना चाहता था। उस रात सती के मुख पर एक अनोखी उदासी छा रही थी। नाथ ने उसका हाथ अपने हाथ में लेते हुए पूछा "प्रिये, मैं देख रहा हूँ कि तुमने कल से ही मौन धारण कर रखा है। क्या मैं तुम्हारी सलाह लिए बिना भरती हो गया हूँ, इसीलिए?" सती ने मौन तोड़ते हुए उत्तर दिया, "नहीं, इसलिये कि एक अबला नारी सिवाय चुप रहने के आपका बिगाड़ भी क्या सकती है। क्या आपने यह भी किंचितमात्र सोचा है कि मेरा पीछे क्या हाल होगा। आपने जो भड़कती आग में छलाँग लगाई है, मुझे किसके सहारे छोड़े जा रहे हो।" इस पर नाथ ने एक लम्बा चौड़ा भाषण देते हुए कहा, "सती, पता नहीं तुम्हें किस ने पढ़ा दिया है कि जो लोग लड़ाई में जाते हैं वे सभी वहाँ पर मर जाते हैं। बिना मौत आये किसी की मृत्यु नहीं होती। जिसका

(24)

The next morning we returned to Bhuj and decided to go to a dam which was about 15 miles away. Rations and other requirements were loaded by Devasagayam in a tonga, and we reached the dam at about 10 P. M. Beesa accompanied us. A small PWD rest house had been built on the side of the lake, presenting lovely scenery. I wished I could stay at that place throughout my life. Devasagayam looked after me very well during that period. He did not know much cooking, but we were hungry and ate whatever he prepared with relish.

One morning we saw a few croc floating with their noses above the surface of the water. Beesa suddenly whispered "*Wagu-Wagu*" and pointed towards the bank. There was a small croc lying on the shore of the lake about a yard from the water. He was offering me a side target. I took cover behind a bush and fired from a distance of 30 yards. The croc dived into the water. I knew that I had missed him! What a disappointment, and Beesa, I am sure, cursed me under his breath.

Anyhow, we again started walking around the lake, moving very slowly, and looking very closely on the bank. We came to a little turn, and Beesa went forward to reconnoitre. He excitedly waved his hand and asked me to come forward. What a sight met my eyes! There was a huge croc hardly 10 yards away from me. He was lying under a small bush and was pretty well camouflaged. His face was touching the water but the remainder of his body was out. What luck! Visions of establishing a new record for croc shooting entered my head and at this range I could not miss. I aimed at his neck and pressed the trigger. Like a flash he disappeared into the water. Beesa cried out in agony that I had missed him and slowly it dawned on me that this was only too true. I felt so ashamed of myself that I returned to base straight away and poured out my woes to Devasagayam. We stayed on for another two days but did not fire any more. The crocs were shy, as that place had hardly been visited by any human being and they would glide into the water as soon as they saw us.

We met two men who bad come to hook crocs. I hope it will interest readers to know how this is done. During the day they find a place frequented by crocs; in the evening they bring a hook covered with dry grass round which is tied goat stomach meat as bait. A stout rope, 1 inch thick and about 10 yards long joins the hook to a dry bundle of paddy grass. All is now set. The ball-like bait is released in the water and swallowed by a croc.

Croc bait

The croc now spends a most uncomfortable night because he cannot get rid of the hook or lie on the bed of the lake, since the bundle of paddy grass cannot be pulled under. Next morning the men return and find a tired croc resting on the bank. In a flash he jumps into the water, but the bundle of paddy grass keeps on floating. One man enters the water and brings the bundle to the bank. His companions now play tug-of-war with the croc and slowly pull him to the surface, where they finally hack him to death with axes. These men told me that they often caught two or three crocs in one night by this method.

After three days I returned to Bhuj and said good-bye to Beesa. I wish I could have adequately thanked him. Here was a true shikari, a poor man who left home, wife and children to participate in sport without much hope of reward. Bhuj incidentally is a dry, hilly place with very few trees; it is full of partridge, sand grouse, chink, buck and crocodile. I returned to my unit after an interesting holiday and a certain lady is now the proud owner of a crocodile-skin purse!

ईश्वर रक्षक है उसका खांडे की तेज धार भी कुछ नहीं बिगाड़ सकती, विष उसके लिये अमृत समान बन जाता है और आग के भड़कते हुए शोले ठंडे पड़ जाते हैं। तुम्हें याद है यह किसने कहा था :—

"जाको राखे साईयाँ मार सके न कोय,
बाल न बाँका कर सके जो जग बैरी होय।"

वास्तव में लड़ाई में ही तो मनुष्य को अपनी वीरता तथा साहस दिखाने का सुअवसर मिलता है। यदि कोई साधारण सैनिक भी युद्ध में वीरता दिखाता हुआ काम आ जाए तो उसके निकट सम्बन्धियों को बड़ी बड़ी जागीरें मिलती हैं। फिर मृत्यु तो प्रत्येक व्यक्ति के लिये, चाहे वह राजा हो या रंक, सिपाही हो या साधु, निश्चित है। दो मिनट के लिए मान लो कि मैं बहादुरी का कोई काम करता हुआ यदि युद्ध में काम आ भी गया तो तुम्हारा यह लाल और होने वाला मुन्ना तो राजसी ठाठ का जीवन व्यतीत करेंगे। तुम्हारे पास एक जागीर होगी और..." "बस करो नाथ।" टोकते हुए सती ने कहा, "मैं यह सब नहीं सुन सकती। मुझे अपने हाल पर रहने दो"। फिर न जाने दोनों किन विचारों में विलीन हो कर रात की कालिमा के माया जाल में उलझ गये।

विवाह के पश्चात प्रथम बार ही इस समय सती ने नाथ की इच्छा का विरोध किया था। परन्तु नाथ था एक दृढ़ प्रतिज्ञ युवक। वह जिस बात का एक बार इरादा कर लेता, उसे रद्द करने की किसी की मजाल न होती थी। विदाई के रोज नाथ की माँ ने प्रातःकाल खाना आदि तैयार कर लेने के बाद ही उन को बैठक से जाकर जगाया। नाथ की माँ कुछ सख्त स्वभाव की स्त्री थी। उसने सती को डाँटते हुए कहा, "मेरे बच्चे ने आज बाहर जाना है और तुम्हें इस बात की कुछ चिन्ता ही नहीं, जा जल्दी से नहा धोकर तैयार हो ले।"

अन्त में वियोग की घड़ी आई। नाथ ने सती से लाल की देखभाल करने और अपनी ओर से निश्चिन्त रहने को कहा। पुनर्मिलन के आनन्द के चित्र खींचकर उसने सती से अनुरोध किया कि वह साहस से काम ले। परन्तु सती को न जाने क्या हो गया था। उसने अब अश्रु-द्वारा उससे प्रार्थना की कि वह उन्हें छोड़ कर न जाए। किन्तु नाथ के लिए अपने कर्तव्य पालन के सिवाय और कोई मार्ग न था। उसने इस धर्म संकट में बड़ी कठिनाई से अपना निश्चय दृढ़ रखा और बोला, "मैं मर तो नही गया जो तुम ने अभी से ही रोना शुरू कर दिया है।" इस वाक्य का सुनना था कि सती के आँसू न जाने कौन से सूर्य की तपश पड़ने से खुश्क हो गये। लाल के सिर पर प्यार देकर नाथ ने अपनी राह ली। दूर जाता हुआ वह जब तक दृष्टिगोचर रहा, सती और उसकी सास वहीं खड़ी उस निहारती रहीं।

नाथ को घर से गये दो सप्ताह हो गये हैं। इस बीच में सती का अपनी सास से तीन बार झगड़ा हो चुका है। सती नवीन विचारधारा की स्त्री थी। उसको अपनी सास का चिड़चिड़ा स्वभाव तथा बात बात पर रोका टोकी पसन्द न थी। वैसे तो वह बड़ी सहनशील बहू थी पर नाथ की अनुपस्थिति में उसे छोटी छोटी बातें भी चुभने लगी थीं। उसने अपने मायके पत्र लिख भेजा और उसका भाई आ कर सती को कुल्लुवाल ले गया। यहाँ पर स्थिति बिलकुल विपरीत थी। इस घर में सती का अपने भाई बहनों पर शासन था। यहाँ तक कि उसकी बड़ी भावज भी उससे सलाह लिए बिना कुछ न करती थी। सती के दिन सुख चैन से कटने लगे। वह यहाँ पर रह कर प्रसन्न थी। पर विधाता ने उसके भाग्य में क्या लिख रखा है इसका उसे आभास तक न था। कुल्लुवाल में अकस्मात चेचक का ऐसा प्रकोप हुआ कि उसका लाल उससे छिन गया। सती के लिये जो कि पहले से ही विरह-अग्नि में जल रही थी, यह एक असहनीय प्रहार था। वह अब सदा उदास रहने लगी।

फरवरी का महीना २८ दिन का होते हुए भी नाथ को ऐसा प्रतीत होता जैसे वह वर्षों से घर वालों से दूर रह रहा हो। कभी कभी वह बहुत गहरे विचारों में खो जाता। सोचते सोचते वह यह भी भूल जाता कि उसके विचारों का सिलसिला शुरू कहाँ से हुआ था। कुछ भी हो, "सती को जब उसका मनी आर्डर मिलेगा तो वह सब कुछ भूल जाएगी," अन्त में ऐसा सोच कर नाथ अपने मन को शान्ति दे लेता।

आज मार्च की दो तारीख को वेतन मिलेंगा। नाथ ने पहले से ही ६५ रुपये का मनी आर्डर सती के नाम भर रखा था। दूसरे दिन प्रातः ही उसने यह मनी आर्डर डाक घर से भिजवा दिया। "परन्तु सती यह मनी आर्डर स्वीकार करेगी या नहीं।" इस बात का नाथ ने कभी विचार तक नहीं किया था। डाकिया ने कुल्लुवाल की सीमा में प्रवेश किया ही था कि उसने एक बहुत बड़ा जुलूस देखा, मानों बहुत से लोग इकट्ठे होकर उसके स्वागत के लिये आ रहे हों। पर यह जुलूस क्या था, सती की पालकी के साथ बारात चढ़ी हुई थी जो कि "राम-नाम सत है" का उच्चारण करती हुई शमशान घाट की ओर बढ़ी जा रही थी। सती की प्रसवकाल में निमोनिया हो जाने के कारण मृत्यु हो गई थी।

मनी आर्डर भेजने के तीन दिन बाद नाथ को सुसराल से तार आ गया। पर यह तार क्या था नाथ के लिये कठोर शब्दों में एक स्मरण पत्र था जो कि उसे युद्ध रूपी हवन में अपने जीवन की आहुती देने को उतावला करता था, जिससे सती की आत्मा को पूर्ण शांति मिले।

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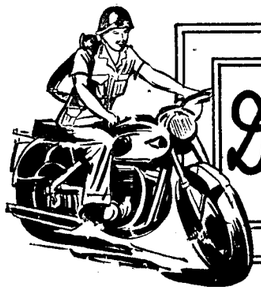


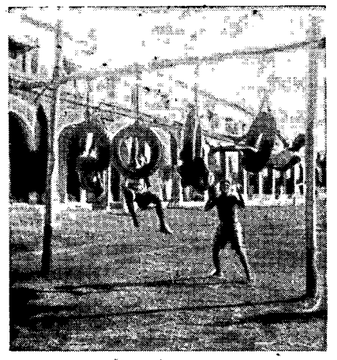
Despatch from Units

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

The last quarter has been uncannily free of inspections, only one officer, the Director of Technical Training having visited the School, but of him more later. It is probably too much to hope, though, that this state of affairs will continue.

We will have to do much better in the next few months if we are to maintain our past average in the matter of births, the last quarter having accounted for only two. To make up for it, however, two of our chaps have decided to get married and we extend our good wishes to the happy couples. All these events are reported under *Personal Call*. We have had more than our fair share of departures without a corresponding influx. Capts. J. C. Sarin, J. C. Anand and G. Paisley have left our learned ranks. Capt. Gopal Das too, leaves our country bent upon widening his perspective *aux Folies Bergere*, the while trying to persuade CDA that he is attending an Army Wireless Chain Course. CQMH A. Ramaswamy, Havs. Rattan Lal and N. William have also left, the latter having to be dug out by the roots in the Orderly Room.

Ex-Servicemen with the Comdt.



Looping the loop

Sub-Maj. and Hony. Lieut. Mast Ram retired after 27 years of yeoman service. He was given a fine send-off which included a ride in a jeep towed by the JCOs and capped by the presence of practically the entire school at the station. We are also grateful to the Dogras for lending us their band on this occasion.

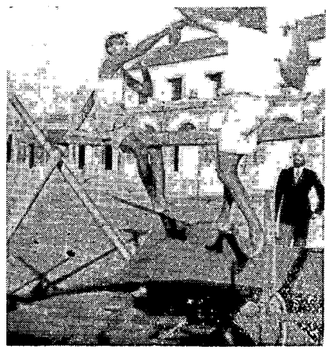
On the credit side we welcome Capts. J. R. Falleiro, R. P. Singh and J. P. Gupta (Engrs), also Jem. R. Subramaniam, Havs. Gandharv Singh and Puran Singh.

Republic day found the School represented on the Station Parade by one company. Later in the day all ranks sat down for Bara Khana, which was followed by a tea-party for the JCOs in the Officers Mess.

A short breathing space and Corps Birthday was on us. On 14th February a baby show testified to the invigorating climate of Mhow. Baby Papinder, daughter of Jem. Sardara Singh gurgled with pleasure on receiving first

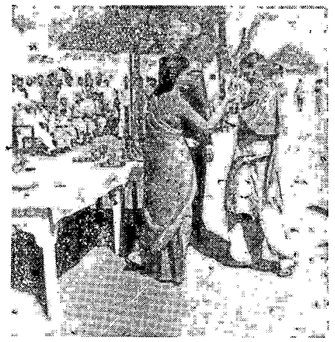
Get that chicken !

prize. Next morning celebrations proper opened with children's sports, and Papa Misra was in great form distributing packets of sweets all round. Later everybody sat down together for a sumptuous lunch and then reluctantly heaved themselves out to watch a Pagal Gymkhana.



Sock him !

A variety of organised madness followed. Our wives were in particularly good form and judges had a hard time selecting winners in ladies' events. Sigmn. A. M. Thomas and Abhay Singh bagged first and second prizes respectively in the fancy dress; their garbs were so realistic that Jem. M. R. Rana, pistol-packing School Gestapo chief, is changing to automatic weapons.



Baby Show Winner

The finale on 15th February were Dinner Nights held at the Officers', JCOs' and Senior NCOs' Messes. To remind us of our parents the Engineers, Col. M. M. Nath, the Director of Technical Training was present. Whether the DTT approves of his progeny is not known, but we do know that the party went on until the early hours of the morning and the prowess of Signals at the bar was in no whit inferior to that of the Engineers.

Which reminds us, we'll have one for the road ourselves now and call it a day until next issue. So long, folks.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS SIGNAL REGIMENT

On 13 Jan. '56 we lost our popular commanding officer in the most tragic circumstances. This is a great loss to the Corps for not only was Hari Bhagwat a fine officer but he was a man who endeared himself to everybody. It is impossible to assess his personality in cold print. To his family we extend our most sincere condolences and if ever they require any sort of assistance, this regiment will, to a man, do everything possible to help.

As usual we laid on a PA system for Republic Day functions. These were held on a much larger scale than in previous years and the

सैनिक वन्दना

(सिगनलमेंन-- 'महेन्द्रनाथ')

"सैनिक को देना शक्ति दान"

नहीं वांछित मुझे कभी भी,
प्रेयसी का शुचि प्रणय-पाश।
देख न्यूनता लक्ष्मी की भी,
होगा नहीं तनिक सन्ताप।
तोड़े वन्धन सब दुनिया के,
आया करके मैं विश्वास।
शक्ति देवी! मत ठुकरा देना,
मेरी अंतिम जीवन आश।
तभी बना पाऊँगा अपना,
श्रेयस्कर नूतन विधान।
सैनिक को देना शक्ति दान।।

वीर शिवा के रोम रोम में,
था अपार तेरा संचार।
जिससे दर्प दला दुश्मन का,
दूर किया दानव व्यवहार।
किया प्रोत्साहित प्रताप को,
समर भूमि में बारम्बार।
आजीवन प्रण रहा पालता,
कितने सहकर कष्ट अपार।
वही तेज और चमत्कार,
देवी! कर दो मुझको प्रदान।
सैनिक को देना शक्ति दान।।

प्रभा-पुंज रग रग में भरदो,
रूखा जीवन सुखमय करदो।
नीरस पंखड़ियों को फिर से,
एक बार आ रसमय करदो।
जीवन है संग्राम जहाँ पर,
प्रस्तुत हैं अनेक बलधारी।
भारत कीर्ति ध्वजा फहराऊँ,
विजय श्री का हो अधिकारी।
पा अभीप्सित मुखरित होगा,
सतत देवि तेरा यश गान।
सैनिक को देना शक्ति दान।।

* * *

सैनिक का आदर्श

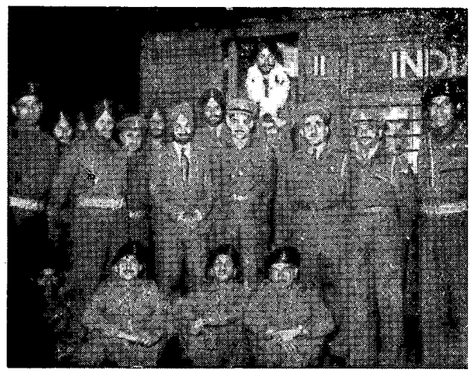
(हविल्दार– **नाथूराम त्रिवेदी 'वीर'**)

स्वतंत्र भारत के वीर सैनिक

खेलेंगे बांकुरे वीर रण में खेल ऐसा अब,
अस्त्र और शस्त्र घात छाती पर झेलेंगे।
झेलेंगे अपार कष्ट फिर उत्साहित हो,
देश के लिए प्राण हाथों पर ले लेंगे।
ले लेंगे सौगंध 'माता' की पवित्र "वीर",
देश की आन पर मस्तक भी मेलेंगे।
मेलेंगे ऐसे वह मौत को गले से कि,
यदि मुंड गिर जायेंगे तो रुंड उठ खेलेंगे।

arrangements worked without a hitch. We also provided a SCR 399 for AIR'S mobile commentator. The difference in quality between this arrangement and their normal transmission was hardly noticeable, or so we like to believe anyway!

There has been a spate of sports activity during the last quarter. In athletics Capt. Venugopalan Nair and his boys ran away with most trophies. The Decathlon was the most keenly contested of all events. L/Nk Sulakhan Singh retained his title (third year running) beating sprinter L/Hav. Resham Singh and Jem. Arunachalam by a very narrow margin. Let's hope Signals Records do not read this, otherwise we lose three potential instructors.



CHM Nazar Singh seen off at the railway station

Nk Mohan Singh, L/Nk K.T.S. Nambiar and L/Nk. Kashmira Singh made the Services Team in the National Basket Ball Championship Tournament held at Hyderabad. Nk. Parduman Singh represented Western Command in the Inter-Services Volley Ball Tournament. Nk P. E.Varkye and L/Nk. M. Sankaran too,played for Delhi Station in the Delhi Area Volley Ball Tournament.

Two of our senior NCOs have left us after a long innings of over 20 years in each case. We hope the Editor will, at some future date publish an account of these two veterans (*Glad to*—Ed.). Capts. E. A. Mitter, D. P. Agarwal and Lt. S. Chadha have joined the regiment; we are sorry to lose Lt. Visvanathan who has left us for Southern Command Signal Regiment.

We'll be back again in the next issue, so 'bye for now.

WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

This transmission of ours comes from Ambala where we have moved for an exercise. Capt. Subbu always finds an audit observation which cannot wait, to settle at Simla. Whether he settles the objection or not, is best known to him, but we are told that many others, equally urgent, are still pending.

Major Keshari Singh, as usual, is up the pole and is determined to lay lines whether anybody wants them or not. Sub. Dharman, who was responsible for setting up a lineman's camp, beat the gun and put all lines through one week ahead of schedule. He then showed a touch of genius by managing to avoid doing anything else until the camp started.

The merry-go-round of postings continue. Capts. Gurdial Singh and Talwar left us recently. We do not envy them the heat of the plains. Capt. Jaswant Singh is threatening to leave any day now for the School. The powers that be have, however, remembered to post a couple in. They are Lts. Dave and Wadhwa. It was a job to get them up the heights to Jutogh. They have now taken their appointed place

Lunch at Kufri

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

We have had a fair share of visits by senior officers, the CSO and the Sub-area Commander having inspected the unit during the quarter under review.

In sport we were hot favourites for the Lucknow Station Hockey Tournament, but an outsider romped home, the AMC centre beating us to win a well-deserved trophy. Later, to soothe our ruffled spirits, the dramatic society under its president Sub. Rajamanickam staged a variety show.

Sub. Moses (a very far cry from his namesake in the Old Testament) is busy getting the unit garden into shape and has rounded up a number of stray cattle for this purpose--instead of handing them over to the local pound, Moses makes them work a water-wheel!

On 6 Feb. we shifted our mess into another building on Fulton Road. An all-out effort was necessary to get it into shape for the Corps Birthday dinner on 15 Feb. On this occasion we were honoured by the presence of our Colonel Commandant, Maj-Gen Daulet Singh.

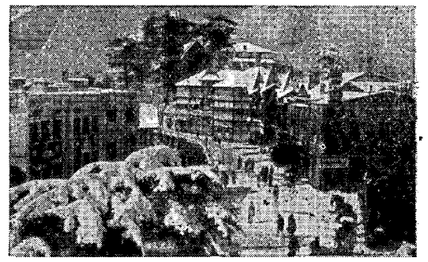
A welfare fete and Pagal Gymkhana were the other items which made up Corps Birthday celebrations.

The other day some of our officers went out for a shoot and bagged 36 duck—the number of rounds expended, however, is a closely guarded secret.

Finally, arrivals and departures. We bade farewell to Capts. Bhagwan Singh and 'Balu'. With the arrival of Lieuts. David, Anand and Jem. Ram Singh, some of us can look forward to going on leave.

CSO BRANCH HQ WESTERN COMMAND

We return to these pages after some considerable time and we shall endeavour to make our appearances more regular in future. There have been many changes in the Branch, our JC, Jem. K. Pongiannan being posted away to the Centre on Medical grounds and we do hope that in the less rigorous climate of Madhya Pradesh, he and his family have recovered their good health. Jem. Devi Chand took over the chair thus vacated and celebrated his posting by having a son. That master draughtsman, radio mechanic and jack-of all trades, Hav. Balwant Singh left us to go on pension after seventeen years of honest and meritorious service. The best wishes of all of us go with him in his new life. Naik Kuldip Singh has joined the happy family and is settling in well. The remainder of the staff, Gopalan, Nambiar etc. are in good form and keep the machine moving. Our SOI, Lt. Col. Sawhny has now left us for a different type of appointment where he is at the receiving rather than the dishing-out end. Capt. Nautiyal is at the School being initiated into the mysteries of being a good Signals officer and maintains his contact with this HQ by letters reaching him through the Mess Secretary!



Winter in Simla

Maj. K. S. Row has moved from high altitudes down to sea-level, and has been replaced by Maj. N. K. Tarapore who appears to be in great demand as an intrinsic part of every picnic, dance or get-together, organised up here. Maj. Talwar continues to be the keystone of the Branch and to celebrate this nth year in his appointment, has taken to smoking cigars, which, more often than not, he "borrows" from his SOI's desk. Capt. Ram Singh carries on calmly and unperturbed, juggling with his equipment and taking good care that there is no fiddling or juggling going on in his units. He too is celebrating his many years of service in the approved fashion (or is it the cold nights that are to blame)? Maj. Pritam Singh continues to perform his Cipher mysteries behind locked doors and has taken to drinking vast quantities of orange juice in order to distinguish SOX from stockings. Capt. S. K. Sahni has just joined us from the short telecom course and is using his vast technical knowledge to clear up telephone bills outstanding over the past year.

The CSO is in great form, disappearing constantly to visit his vast parish, returning back in time to pile us up with enough work to maintain a constant back log to keep us out of mischief. Ice-skating and skiing are now in vogue, with the Branch well represented on the committee and as performers. The CSO by his diligence and keenness has taken up skiing very seriously, has become very adept, and can even perform on skis when there is no snow at all. The picture above is to give you some idea of what things are like up here and to make you plainsmen very envious.

That is all till next time.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSIONS SIGNAL REGIMENT

"Allo Allo" as the French say, (which means "Chow ong" in Vietnamese) this is the International Commissions Signal Regiment calling.

For the benefit of those who have not so far visited Indo-China we may say that the regiment is divided into four detachments serving South Vietnam (Saigon), North Vietnam (Hanoi), Cambodia (Phnom Penh) and Laos (Vientiane). Our headquarters, consisting of CO and adjutant, is theoretically located at Hanoi, but moves about much of the time between the various states. Indo-China is a land of distances. Much work goes into keeping up communications here, which are improvised and have to meet special demands of our own diplomatic as well as Polish and Canadian traffic.

We wish we could give a resume of arrivals and departures. This is not possible as the complete regiment changed between August and October 1955. This has, therefore, been a period of intense activity for us; what with receiving new-comers, despatching them to various fixed and mobile teams, getting old timers ready for their homeward trip, bidding them farewell and finally ensuring that they did get away in the planes chartered for that purpose.

Various festivals, such as Dusshera, Diwali, Christmas and others have been celebrated by Bara Khanas, to which members of all the other nations in Indo-China were invited. These have proved tremendously popular and, as one American put it, our curry was the real Mc Coy.

We have also put on quite a few dramatic entertainments and these have provided pleasant memories of our homeland.

In October the Saigon Detachment moved their signal installations into a new camp with excellent billets and offices. Here is a signal centre which is veritably a signal officer's dream come true!

Many of our Jawans have picked up elements of French and Vietnamese, though sometimes a few choice Indian epithets get thrown in.

There are eight detachments in the South, to which personnel are sent for an average of six weeks; thus most of us are seeing the land. It's lovely country, rich, fertile and beautiful.

On the sports field, we played a Polish team, champions from Haiphong, and we beat them. We have won Volley Ball, Basket Ball and Football Matches in Inter Sub-unit Competitions.

One Sunday we had arranged a picnic to Cap. St. Jacques, a gem of a seaside resort. A three-tonner carrying some of our boys met with an accident and broke the front axle. The French driver got the party six miles into Cap. St. Jacques, but said the journey 50 miles back would be difficult "because the steering was so hard".

CO with Russian and British Ministers

Up in the North (Hanoi) everything is "totlam", which means "very good" in the local dialect. We too have had our share of parties, dramas, feasts and other entertainments.

We played a Volley Ball Match against a picked North Vietnamese Team. At the commencement of any volley ball game, there is always a special ceremony. Both teams form up on either side and march up to the net. The captains of the teams then exchange bouquets.

in the wild life sanctuary called "Robert's Height".

In spite of heavy operational commitments and constant moves, we managed to find time for the lighter side of life. Corps Birthday was celebrated with customary enthusiasm and zeal; some time-honoured and some new ways of keeping warm were devised ! Many ex-servicemen took part in the rejoicings. Highlights of the celebrations were the Pagal Gymkhana, Beer Party for JCOs, Bara Khana with jawans and Regimental Dinner Nights in the Officers' and JCOs' Messes. The Sub Area Commander and his staff officers graced some of these occasions. Just before leaving Simla, officers and their families went to Kufri for winter sports. Skiing and trekking over snow-covered heights was most enjoyable. Although snow can be bitterly cold, it is our good friend, since it keeps away the less hardy breed of inspecting officer. A photograph of our outing to Kufri is reproduced.

Another important feature of winter life in Jutogh is that almost all wives desert their husbands and proceed to more comfortable places for .... well, you know. The results are encouraging. Quite a few have been blessed with bonny babies.

SOUTHERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

We continue to try hard in the realm of sport. We entered for the Poona Sub-area and two civilian hockey tournaments but were beaten by better teams in each of these. Our cricket eleven took part in the Sub-area, Mandke and Kalewar shields and got as far as the semi-finals.

Happy landing !

We also organised a series of Annual Inter-Section sports. This type of competition is a fine proving-ground for discovering latent talent and getting the shy type of individual to come forward and play. L/Nk. Sarwan Singh won the best-athlete trophy while the rifle and sten shot competitions were won by Sigmn. Devi Lal and Hav. Om Parkash respectively; the pistol shooting prize fell to Lt. Col. Shiv Singh (*who said put-up job ?*—Ed.)

The most notable feature of our Corps Birthday celebrations was a Pagal Gymkhana. One of the items, a Pagal-technicians race merits further description. A message was transmitted on RT by the Army Commander to various mobile detachments taking part; these were then required to race across a field and deliver the message to a judge.

Nk. Tarlochan Singh gets his prize

Corps Birthday dinner was attended by all the Signal Officers in the station, the GOC.-in-C being the guest of honour. The CSO during a speech on this occasion drew our attention to the rather baffling fact that the Corps of Signals is 45 years old whereas its parents the Engineers are only 24.

Capt. Jaipal, Lieuts. R. B. Babulkar and V. K. Dave, Jems. Atma Singh, Ishar Singh and CHM Doraiswamy have left us. Posted in are Lieuts. S. S. Das, K. S. Caveeshar, P. K. Viswanathan, S. N. Bhardwaj, R. S. Trehan, Jems. V. D. Mahadeven (EME) and Amar Singh. We congratulate a number of our boys who have been promoted. Lt. P. K. Banker is acting most strange these days—in the next issue we hope to add his name among those who "lived happily even after".

(We now feel qualified to run short courses for bachelors)! Individual members of the teams then shake hands with their opposite numbers.

Shri M. J. Desai, the Ambassador, left us on 3 Dec. 55 and was replaced by Shri Parthasarthy. Corps Birthday Celebrations were attended by almost all signal officers in Indo-China. We held a Pagal Gymkhana, at which Mrs. Brar, the wife of the GOC, gave away the prizes.

In the evening, we had a splendid party at the Metropole Hotel attended, among others, by the Indian, Canadian and Polish Ambassadors, the GOC, General Giap of Dien Bien Phu and the Indian Consul General in Hanoi. A novelty greatly appreciated at the party was a barbeque, Major General Brar outlined the history of Signals, thanked the regiment on behalf of all present, and proposed a toast to the Corps.

Our Cambodian Detachment has also been having quite a hectic time. Of special mention was a Co-ordination conference of the chairmen of the three states (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos), at the historical site of Ankorvat. Special communications for this had to be laid on.

Major General P. N. Kirpal, the Chairman of the Commission, has been replaced by Major General Chand Narain Dass. Guards of honour, receptions and inspections kept the detachment on its toes. On Republic Day we received messages of thanks from the President and the Prime Minister.

Now about Laos. There are 12 provinces in Laos, and our boys have to put up with very varied living conditions. In places like Phongsaly and Samneua, where the Signals Detachment consists of only two or three operators, they have to exist for long periods without mail, fresh rations and even water. (Cooking is done in Vichy and Perrier-bottled French mineral water equivalent to soda). They are accommodated in thatched bunkers, huts or tents. The boys do a tenure of six to eight weeks in such places and are then withdrawn south to better stations, such as Pakse and Luang Prabang.

There being no means other than air to reach most places, the time taken for journeys depends on weather conditions and the availability of aircraft or helicopters. In some cases it has taken upto six weeks before flying conditions were good enough to permit landing by helicopters.

Our readers will appreciate the difficulties of maintenance, communications and administration in Laos.

During an exchange of fire between the Laos National Army and the Pathet Lao, Signalman K. S. Menon stopped a bullet with his leg. His companion, Signalman Ajit Singh, ran to a wireless set through heavy fire and sent a log asking for a helicopter from Samneua, which resulted in Menon's speedy evacuation. Menon has since been transferred to Calcutta for further treatment.

In Vientiane (the Headquarters of the Commission and the official capital of Laos) at present, a blanket suffices for the night, whereas, in the northern provinces, even with six blankets one feels cold and (dare we say it) miserable.

So here is a chance for active service, fellows. We hope these notes will help you in selecting the country of your choice, that is if you have any say in the matter.

106 COMMUNICATION ZONE SIGNAL REGIMENT (TA) (P & T)

We have just heaved a thankful sigh of relief because we were inspected during the past two months by the Brigade Area Commander, the GOC, GOC-in-C, the COAS. and the GI MT 12. The unit grabbed with both hands an opportunity of taking part in TA Day celebrations on 29 Nov. 55. In the morning, a contingent of TA recruits participated in a flag march through the streets of Calcutta and acquitted themselves creditably. In the evening, a TA exhibition was declared open by HE the Governor of West Bengal. Later on, he visited the stalls and evinced keen interest in the Signals booth which won second prize. Women volunteers were to the fore, manning (or is it womanning?) the various counters, and this proved a tremendous attraction for the male population of Calcutta. Probably, for the first time in Corps history, a women's camp was run by us. The women proved highly appreciative of the slimming effect it produced. Subedar Hushnaki Ram, who was in charge of the camp, deserves a special pat on the back for his agility in preventing his eyes being scratched out! Subedar Kishor Singh is also to be congratulated for his good work with the men recruits.

2 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since we last appeared on these pages, much water has flowed under the bridge and two hurdles have been successfully crossed. Another Air Formation Signals Week has come and gone, and the Annual Inspection by CAFSO completed. The credit for the inspection really goes to our hard working unit malis. They had timed the garden round Regimental Headquarters beautifully, and it came into full bloom on the day CAFSO arrived. Being a gardening fiend himself, this put him in a good mood and we could do nothing wrong thereafter. The malis' pay has been doubled and no doubt next year's inspection will go off well again.

Now for the Air Formation Signals Week. As you know, this is an annual series of games between Nos. 1 and 2 Air Formation Signal Regiments, one of which is host regiment every alternate year. This year it was our turn to act the host, and the honour of describing the games has also fallen to us. We cracked off with football and were soundly beaten by two goals to nil. L/Nk. Bhag Singh and Uman were in great form, while Sigmn Mudaliar and Damodaran were the goal-getters. On our side, Sigmn C. P. Pillai and Darshan Singh prevented the score from being worse. The next day we faced our opponents on the hockey-field. No. 1 Air Fmn Signal Regiment thought the game was in the bag, but Sigmn Darshan Singh and Hav. Hazara Singh defended with such determination that neither L/Nk. Bagh Singh nor Hav. Puran Singh of our opponents' team could break through. A good game which ended in a draw. The volley ball encounter was tremendously exciting. We were 'one all' when L/Nk. Nambiar came into his own and smashed away to give No. 1 Air Fmn Signal Regiment victory; on our side, Sigmn Sohan Lal scored many an ace, but we were beaten by a better side. The basket ball also went to our opponents who, I am afraid, literally left us standing. Hav. P. N. P. Nair has sworn another oath (see last issue) to win this cup next year.

The Athletic Meet opened with wrestling where "Pahlwans" with reputations of many years standing, massacred one another. Sigmn Birma and Chandrana Singh were particularly good, while we acquired a heavy-weight in Hav. Bhag Singh, a D/R who now bears the title of King Kong. In Athletics proper we regret to report that No. 1 Air Fmn Signal Regiment swept the board, though we had a few stylish victories. L/Nk. Nambiar cleared 5 feet 6 inches in the High Jump and also annexed the 100-metre race. Our athlete *par excellence* Nk. Mohan Singh ran away with the 1500-metre race. Another fast worker was Sigmn Prabhakaran Nair, a clerk by trade, who types as fast as he runs. In field events, the outstanding item was a Javelin Throw of 140 feet by Sigmn Kishore Tambe. Various other events were competed for, but, I am afraid, lack of space prevents us from giving full details.

The meet was attended by Brig B. S. Kullar, while the Brass Band of the Madras Engineering Group was in attendance. The Engineers also laid on a P. T. Display where spectators were thrilled to see a Scotch Reel done in mass formation (*Wot, no kilts?*—Ed.) The games were rounded off by a prize distribution where L/Nk Nambiar of No. 1 AFS and Nk. Mohan Singh of No. 2 AFS shared a silver cup for the best individual competitor in the Athletic Meet.

With this came to an end a most enjoyable week. We live to fight again. Hold on to your laurels No. 1 AFS. We will be after them in earnest next year!

A MAJOR FIELD UNIT

The cold weather said to galvanize many "peace" units into activity is one for us where we pass from the flappy into the quiet state. In early November, we had our formation sports. We managed to bring up the rear gallantly in many events, but we earned a good name in that our P A equipment never failed and Bob Chalke was popular as the announcer.

We have had a change of COs. Most of us hoped that the new CO would take some time to settle down while we relaxed, but alas! The tempo remains as high as ever.

Inclement weather does not permit us to indulge in many outdoor activities. We had organised a carrom-board tournament, in which there were plenty of participants from all ranks. Officers being out of practice, as they always are, were eliminated in the early rounds. Naik M. Sundaram was the champion and L/Nk. K. James the runner-up, and were thus the proud owners of a fountain pen each. They intend to celebrate their victory by entering

for the Akehurst Medal Essay Competition, later in the year.

Baby it's cold outside

To boost the morale of those officers who lost in carrom, our enthusiastic Lion has started a bridge class for intelligent subalterns, and we hope to grab all prizes in future bridge competitions. (*What happens to the unintelligent ones* ? — Ed.) A chess tournament is under way. It gives a grand opportunity for future Napoleons to match their strategy and tactics against future Wellingtons.

The middle of December saw many fair weather birds flying home. As a result, strength in Langars and the Officers' Mess has gone down considerably. Joe (Jayu) Deshpande has pushed off for a very special reason (*See Personal Call* — Ed). We miss that grand old man Capt. Dada Chet Singh and his friendly arguments with Capt. Charlie Cama across the dining table. The Line Section is acting queer these days — they have been having a very rum time! We hope readers will be able to appreciate the toughness of their job from the photograph published.

Recently, the usual run of chicken has been replaced by tasty wild duck — thanks to our CO. His fame with the shot gun is well-deserved and we hope he will keep himself in practice. A Pagal Gymkhana on Republic Day saw one of our reps well to the fore; the unit mascot, a goat, (*officer or animal?*—Ed.) majestically walked off with the first prize.

As was expected, 2/Lt. S. C. Mehra and 2/Lt. Ganguli came second in the blindfolded race, because with these two it has always been a case of the blind leading the blind!

We congratulate two of our JCOs on their promotion, and one of our senior NCOs for making the JCO grade. We welcome Capt. (Dolly) Daulat Ram and Lt. Harbhajan Singh. The latest additions to our fold are 2/Lts. B. K. Mathur and S. Chandra, who are still to find their frozen feet.

The Editor has sent an OP IMMEDIATE signal to cut our despatch short. (*Please, oh please tell the truth* — Ed). Well folks, that compels us to stop here!

A MAJOR SIGNAL UNIT

We are awfully sorry for our long absence from these columns. A good deal has happened since our last despatch.

During the last few months there have been some changes in the staff of our regiment. Major Mohinder Singh, our 2IC, left us after a very creditable innings on posting to the STC. We are sorry to lose him and, at the same time, happy to welcome his replacement, Major Harchand Singh, from HQ Southern Command. Capt. G.P. Sehgal, after a long association with the Corps, called it a day on 19 November 55. We wish him every success in civil life. Capt. Bhagwat Singh left us for YOs' Part II. Capt. P.C. Desmier and Lt. T.P. Singh also parted with us on permanent posting. We thank our outgoing officers, through the columns of this journal, for their work in the regiment, and wish them luck in their new jobs.

"One man in his time plays many parts"

In the field of sport we have been well represented by Capt. DND Jones in football and Rect (Miss) Abreo in athletics. Miss Abreo stood second in two events—the seventy-five metre hurdles and 80 metre run in the All India P & T Athletic Meet. Capt. Jones convincingly dispelled any notion that he is a "has been". After leading the Services in the National Soccer Tournament, he was required to skipper the same team at Delhi in an Exhibition Football Match against an Iranian Services Team.

Well folks, that's all for the present.

107 COMMUNICATION ZONE SIGNAL REGIMENT (TA) (P & T)

Bookings to inspect our unit have been heavy during the last quarter as a result of which we have been honoured by visits from the Brigade Commander, GOC-in-C and the Chief. The visitors were particularly impressed by the number of attractive saris billowing gently on the parade-ground.

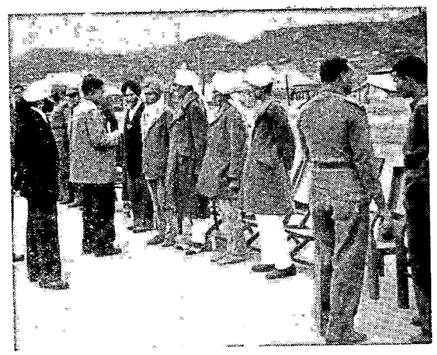
Corps Birthday was celebrated with a Bara Khana and athletic meet. The weather was so hot that we had to cancel the Veterans race, though we nearly had to call the police to prevent the old war-horses from competing.

We have lost Capt. Puran Singh, Sub Abraham, Pushkar and Jotshi. We welcome Capt. Sobti and Bhagwan Singh. Incidentally Sub.-Maj. Tara Singh bears a personal grudge against somebody because his name did not appear in these columns as having been received into our fold and we have decided (*most unjustly*—Ed.) to let the editor take the blame.

A COMMUNICATION ZONE SIGNAL REGIMENT

The intensity of cosmic ray radiation had completely blocked our signals, but in spite of that here we are again. In the Formation Athletic Championship, L/Nk. Govind Pillai brought credit to us by clearing 42′ 6″ in the Hop Step and Jump. We lost the Formation Hockey Tournament, but only just, in the finals. Hav. Gajjan Singh, our grey haired back, was a pillar of strength and his tackling and clearances were a treat to watch. Our wizard Thawar Singh was rather off-colour.

Corps Birthday brought a real re-union, because some pensioners were good enough to attend the function. All ranks thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the mountains of food consumed is ample proof of that. The weather is now clearing up and we hope our signals from now on will be bigger and better. We are under orders to keep our aerials short at the moment!



Recognise any of these old hands?

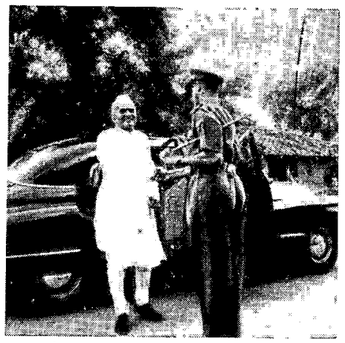
1 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

To begin with, let us tell you about the most important event in this quarter. The Air Formation Signals Annual Sports were held in Bangalore and we annexed the championship trophy for the fourth year in succession. Except for hockey in which we were held to a draw by No. 2 Air Formation Signal Regiment, we won all events including wrestling and tug-of-war. In athletics we were right on top. Credit for bringing home the trophy goes specially to L/Nk. Nambiar, Sigmn. Surjit Singh, Prabhakaran and Birma the pugilist.

Tragedy struck us twice in the last quarter. First, Hav. K. S. Nambiar lost his wife in the Military Hospital, Delhi Cantt. We had hardly recovered from this shock when news reached us of the sad death of Maj. S. L. Soni who had been the OC of this unit from 15 Sep. 49 to 27 Dec. 51. To Mrs. Soni and Hav. Nambiar we extend our deep condolences. May God give you strength to bear your terrible loss.

Our unit personnel have changed considerably in the last quarter; notable among arrivals are Lieut. Y. P. Diwan and Hav. Raghubir Singh while Havs. Ajudhia Ram, Abdul Jabbar and Sigmn. Gurdev Singh have left us.

We welcome into our fold Capts. T.N.K. Krishnan, E.N. Pillai, Puran Singh, R.S. Sekond, Lt. A.J. Gill, 2/Lts. Gian Singh, M.M. Kharona, B.P. Mamgain, R.S. Dhyani, Lakshman Singh and G.P. Rao. We hope that their stay in the regiment will be a long and happy one.



The CO receiving the Defence Minister

Since our last article, we have had quite a few visitors, including Dr. K.N. Katju, Lt. Gen. S.P.P. Thorat and Brig. R.N. Batra. Our collective training during this period was partially marred by inclement weather, the monsoons being the heaviest in living memory. The Annual Training Camp of the regiment was held from 23 November to 2 December. During this camp, we were visited by the CSO, accompanied by Col. Jaswant Singh. They stayed with us and, we are certain, enjoyed a change from the routine of office work. In February, we took part in another big exercise organised by the Formation. This exercise was attended by both the D Sigs. and CSO Command.

In games and sports we continue to fare well. In boxing our boys gave a good account of themselves, winning many fights within the distance. In the Inter Signal Unit Championship Tournament, we annexed the football, hockey and basket ball trophies. We are now sweating for the athletics, which will be held in March. It will be of interest to all his friends that Signalman Dial Singh has, this year, represented Western Command in the Inter Services Volley Ball — congratulations to him. For the first time in the history of the regiment, we raised a wrestling team, who were runners-up in our formation competition. During the drill competition, our boys effectively dispelled any doubts about Signals not being soldiers first!

Corps Birthday was celebrated in a befitting manner. The Amateur Dramatic Club of the regiment, under the guidance of our Sub Maj. put up a show. The day started with a Gymkhana, followed by a regimental Bara Khana to which OR's families were also invited. In the afternoon, there was a JCOs' tea party. We were fortunate to have the Corps Pipes and Drums with us during the celebration, and these added much needed colour to the festivity. Ex-servicemen of this area were also invited to our functions, and they appreciated the gesture.

Well folks, AS 3 months for our next transmission !

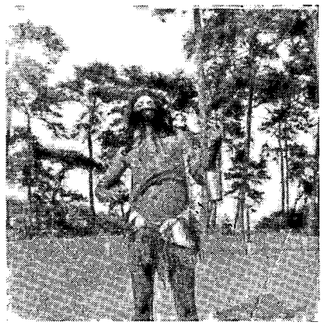
A MINOR SIGNAL UNIT

Well, here we are at last, having reported into the net for the first time. We offer apologies to readers for our belated appearance in these columns. We were honoured by a visit from Lt. Gen. S. P. P. Thorat on 10 September, 55. During the "flood flap" towards the close of September 55, we did our bit in providing wireless communication for the Military College when a considerable number of their officers, Gentlemen cadets and other ranks were marooned overnight due to unexpected flood waters. We participated in the formation Volley Ball Tournament, but lost in the semi-finals, mainly we like to think, because of an injury to our star player, Sigmn Gopinathan.

Our dramatic cast

The Corps Birthday Anniversary was cele-

and Sigmn Sadasivan, while civilian sweeper Deepa helped with a rousing 'Kawali'. A skit by Hav. Kamiappan and a sinuous snake charmer's dance by Nk. Rajagopal and Sigmn Gopal were some of the other highlights of the show. With a tot of rum to keep out the cold, the celebrations of the day came to an end, and the OC Signals breathed a sigh of relief. Incidentally Capt. P. V. N. Rao and Hav. Dhane Lama (ex-servicemen) were also present throughout Corps Day celebrations.



Tell fortune, lady?

In conclusion, we would like readers to know of our achievements. We have won trophies in hockey, basket ball, football and drill; we have been runners-up in football and we have produced the best Information Room in the area. If that isn't enough, we don't know what is !

A PARACHUTE SIGNAL UNIT

We have been carried along in a continuous whirl of activity since we were on the air last. It has been one long series of inspections and exercises all the way through. In spite of this, we haven't had a bad time, really. It would require an essay to give you all the gen on the activities of this unit. As you have neither the time nor the patience to read a long narrative, we will confine ourselves to main events.

In November we took part in a full-fledged para exercise. The weather was cold with the result that the DZ and the landings were jolly hard! Soon after the drop Nk Jai Ram, Sigmn Ram Swarup and Sarwan Singh who are key personnel of the Command net got left behind in the confusion and this divorce resulted in giving Maj Hart a few grey hairs. (*Didn't think he had any hair left!* — Ed).

In sports, the past year has been a voodoo season for us. We came up to the semifinals in every game, hockey, football, basket ball, rugby and what have you, the only consolation, being that we lost to the teams which eventually won. As the season developed, we saw Nk. B. L. Naresh and Victor Sandy play in the Durand Football Tournament. Naik Janam Singh did exceedingly well at Mhow in the ARA meet. We hope he will win the trophy next year. Nk Baldev Singh and Nk "Tanga" Inderpal Singh played hockey for the Formation Team. Sigmn Dharam Pal and L/Nk Jagtar Singh won their weights in boxing in the Formation and Command Tournaments. Dharam Pal carried off the Most Scientific Boxer's trophy and was the favourite of the crowd. L/Nk. K. G. Kutty did well by winning the formation "Best Divers" trophy.

We celebrated our Corps Birthday with a bang. "Teevra" having annexed the Inter Barrack Championship was very jubilant having wrenched it from "Chaukas", last year's holders. "Chaukas" were not to be daunted, however, and they ran away with most of the trophies in Unit Athletics. The Bara Khana and Variety Show were greatly appreciated by all who attended. Quite a lot of latent talent has been revealed, which we hope to exploit for our next show. We have had some recent officer changes but have been lucky not to lose too many of our senior NCOs and other ranks. We were sorry to say good-bye to Maj. Dhamija, who has gone to Staff College and Capt. Kurup on a course to Mhow. We welcome Maj. Dick Hart and Capt. Y.S. Awasthi. They have both got their wings and are full of spirit, (para, we mean). We also congratulate one of our JCOs on his recent promotion.

5 MADRAS SIGNAL SECTION NCC

The last quarter was a busy one for the Section, being a period of intensive training for the 'B' and 'C' certificate examinations. NCC Day was celebrated on 4 December. In the morning a ceremonial parade was held in which Dewan Bahadur Lt. Col. T. M. Narayanswamy Pillai, M. A., B. L., M. L. C., Vice-Chancellor of Annamalai University took the

(42)

salute. In the afternoon sports and variety entertainments were conducted. We, along with our sister Unit, Annamalai Indep Coy NCC, provided a guard of honour to the Vice-President Dr. S. Radhakrishnan on 26 December, during his visit to Annamalai University to preside over the All-India Oriental Conference.

We attended annual camp from 29 December 55 to 11 January 56 at a village near Chidambaram. Two of our cadets, U/O B.M. Muddaiya and Sgt C. R. Mohan Raj were sent for interview with the 6th NCC Course (Permanent Regular Commission) and both of them have been provisionally selected by Selection Centre South. 9 cadets appeared for the 'C' Certificate and 23 for the 'B' Certificate. All have come out successful. We have had to say good-bye to Capt. B. K. Mehta; we extend greetings to his successor, Capt Govindaswamy.

A UNIT IN THE FIELD

Contact has once again been made and wireless silence broken. We had faded into a state of oblivion because of the almost complete turnover of officers—a case of old wine in new bottles, or is it the other way round?

Lt-Col. K. D. Bhasin, Majs. Ferris, Subramanyam, Capts. Khushhal Singh, P. V. N. Rao, Lts. Gill, Dass and Anand have done their bit and exited gracefully from the stage of the regiment. Enter Lt-Col. V. Mehta, Majs. U. P. Sinha, Gurdial Singh, Lts. J. H. Carvalho, B. K. D. Gupta, 2/Lts. Pran Nath and Y. P. Gupta. All this has got us wondering how clean the new brooms are going to sweep!

We mention with pride the fact that our NCsE won first prize in the Divisional Drill Competition for NCsE last October. RHM Ranga Rao's magic wand, which turns itself into a stick on occasion, was responsible for their success—incidently, he has been given an extension of service by one year.

One would have thought that with the annual camp scheduled to commence on 16 February, preparations for our Corps Birthday were bound to suffer somewhat. Not at all. On the 14th night our boys brought off a most enjoyable drama under the almost professional guidance of 2/Lt. Pran Nath. Jem. Selvanayagam, Hav. Gurdev Singh and Hav. Onkar Singh stole

D Sigs being bullied into it

the lime-light of the show with their comedy, song and dance. The morning of the 15th saw the parade ground teeming with activity. Three hours of good fun concluded with a prize distribution by Mrs. Mehta. Needless to say, the mike failed at H hour. (It is remarkable how mikes have an uncanny second sight and accurately predict H hour)!

In the first phase of our annual camp, each coy was exercised individually and umpired by officers of the remaining coys in the spirit of "you gun for me today and I'll fix you tomorrow". The second phase was a Regimental Exercise and the third one found us welcoming the Director. He asked a lot of questions about whether we maintained constant current or constant voltage for charging batteries, so when he visits you next remember to have an answer ready! The Director was entertained to drinks at JCOs' Mess and later to a get together in the Officers' Mess.

We heartily congratulate one of our officers on his recent promotion. (*Result of the exercise?*—Ed).

We will close now, since this is our first despatch after a long time, and we are somewhat out of breath as a result. With a little practice no doubt, we will be able to send in a much weightier mass of bumph. So long.

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE

We have had our share of officer changes during the last few months, Lt.-Col. Lloyd Butler was replaced by Lt.-Col Shamboo

(40)

brated with enthusiasm by all ranks of the Corps and their families. A Bara Khana in the evening put most of our guests in an expansive frame of mind and body, with the result that the skit which followed was widely appreciated. Well done the producers, Hav. C Karunakaran and Nk Kunju Kunju. To the actors, too, we say, thank you.

One of our NCOs has left on well-deserved promotion while yet another has been transferred to the pensions establishment. We welcome Lt. S. P. Choudhry, Jem Dalip Singh, CHM Purshottam Singh, CQMH T. Subha Rao, Hav. Pritam Singh, L/Hav. T. Raghvan and L/Hav. K. S. Easwaran.

SIGNALS IN SHILLONG

Our absence from the pages of this magazine has been so long that, perhaps, it is not worthwhile to render any apologies. Moreover, the absence was not without sufficient cause but again, perhaps, it is not worth the reader's while to listen to excuses.

The visit of the Corps Band to Shillong in the third week of December, gave us a chance to add a new fillip to the prestige of the Corps. We arranged an elaborate three-day programme to exhibit the versatility of our band to the various sections of the Shillong public, including a visit to a local civil hospital, where the staff, most of them Scots, still talk about our pipers with admiration. (*Hoots mon!* — Ed). The band was used to embellish local NCC Day celebrations, and as a vivid finale they gave a torch-light performance in the presence of a distinguished gathering, which included Col. and Mrs. P. N. Luthra.

Next we were called on to provide special signal communications during visits of the Army Commander and the COAS. Worthy of special mention is our wireless detachment which accompanied the COAS during his tour, maintained constant communication with HQ here and was instrumental in clearing an unprecedented volume of traffic.

Thereafter, in rapid succession we won the volley ball and hockey tournaments (minor units) and we need not go into the details of the beat-up we had after receiving the trophies.

Corps Birthday celebrations followed. Our comrades (the term has no political colouring) from the Assam Rifles and the T A assembled in strength and, we hope, thoroughly enjoyed

Our volley-ball team

an exciting day. A Bara Khana, with Headquarters staff taking part, opened the day's programme. We then demonstrated various technical equipment in a stall. At 1430 hours, four buglers sounded a fanfare and three smartly dressed DRs riding in formation opened the sports. A variety of races and games followed and then came one of the highlights, a Fancy Dress Competition. The first prize went to Sigmn Shanti Swarup and M.S. Quareshi for their representation of "The bear and his master", while the second prize went to Sigmn Lachman Singh for his chic representation of "An officer in the MNS".

Sister Lachman Singh

This was not all. A variety show was put on later in the evening, consisting of 16 items, and brought out latent histrionic talent among our OR. Songs were sung by L/Nk A. G. Kutty

Singh who had commanded Boys Regiment here in the past. Capt. Patole reverted to regimental duty after seven years with MTR. (Patole originally belonged to the Marathas but was recently transferred to the Mahars). The Records Officer who often speaks through the columns of this magazine has joined the Engineers and we welcome Maj. Anantharaman in his place. Capt. Govindswamy tall and thin was replaced by Salig Ram short and stocky in Depot Company. So we can possibly expect a complete change of things in this sub-unit!

The arrival of Roby Sen has led to the revival of quite a few games and in particular, cricket. His drive is enviable (He drives with both hands and sometimes with his feet too)!

STC Inter Unit Athletics were revived after five years. MTR carried away the trophy both at the Centre and Sub Area Inter Unit Athletic Meets. Jem Darbara Singh and L/Nk. Nazar Singh (Boys) were in great form and won the individual athletic championships at Sub Area and STC Athletic Meets respectively. During the STC athletic meet in Jan. this year as many as eight new records were established and two previous records equalled. The details are as follows:—

Event	*Rank*	*Name*	*Time/Distance*
400 metres	L/Nk.	Nazar Singh (Boys)	50.4 Secs
800 meters	L/Hav	Alexander (MTR)	2 Mins 2.9 Secs
1500 „	Hav	Waman Swamant (MTR)	4 Mins 24 Secs
400 „ Low Hurdles	Rect.	Harjit Singh (Boys)	1 Min 1.1 Secs
Relay (4x100 mtrs)	Boys Regt		45.4 Secs
Relay (4x100 mtrs)	(MTR)		3 Mins 34 Secs
Discus	L/Nk (ITTR)	Mukhtiar Singh	106′ 2″
Hammer	Hav	Fauja Singh (ITTR)	109′ 3½″
200 Metres	L/Nk	Nazar Singh (Boys)	23.2 Secs
Pole Vault	Sigmn	Sivasankaran (2 TTR)	10′

CO's Flag Presentation—Boys Regiment

Boys Regiment won the Sub Area Inter Unit Football tournament. Nk. Bishan Singh (2 TTR) and Rect Parghat Singh (Boys Regiment) were later selected for the Command Team. 2 TTR won the Knockout Basket Ball Tournament. The STC team represented the Sub Area and carried away the Inter Formation Trophy. In the STC Inter Unit Swimming competition, 1 TTR won the championship. Two of our boys, Rects Murthi and S. K. Shah represented Southern Command for the Inter Services competition at Poona.

In cricket, MTR won the Inter Unit Knock-out Tournament and L/Nk. Gurdial Singh and Rect Hemand Bhopatkar represented Southern Command. Unfortunately no Inter Formation Cricket Tournament was held.

The Centre held a nter unit boxing competition which was won by 2 TTR. We must mention Sigmn (Black Eye) Parthasarthy who won the most Scientific Boxer's Cup. The STC Boys Boxing Team achieved a very high standard, and were somewhat unfortunate to lose to the Madras Sappers in the Inter Services Boxing Championship at Bombay.

Off the RECORD

Signals Association

Membership

The quarter ending 31 December 55 has shown a normal increase in the enrolment of new members to the Association. A comparison of the progress of both life and annual members during the quarter is as under :—

	Life	*Annual*
Quarter ending 30 Sep. 55	173	430
Quarter ending 31 Dec. 55	146	329

The total strength of life and annual members as on 31st December 55 was 6039 and 10981 respectively. The present percentage of membership of the Signals Association in the Corps is 65. It is therefore desired that OC units further endeavour to persuade Officers, JCOs and NCOs who are not yet members of the Corps to join the Association to give a lead to the OR.

Arrears of subscription

As a result of efforts made by CSOs/Comdts/OsC units a sum of Rs. 15,500/-/- has been collected towards arrears of subscription. There are still a large number of members who have not cleared their arrears of subscription. We do hope that continued efforts will be made towards the clearance of the arrears of subscription.

Loan

In order to cater for the needs of as many applicants as possible the amount of loan that can be sanctioned during any year has been increased from Rs. 15,000/-/- to Rs. 25,000/-/- by the Chairman of the Corps Committee. As a result of the increase in the monetary allotment, 35 applicants were granted loans to the extent of Rs. 14,300/-/-.

Offer of Revised Engagement — Ex-States Forces other ranks absorbed in the Regular Army under AI 12/S/50

All Ex-States Forces OR, who on integration under AI 12/S/50, were enrolled for a period of full regular engagement as for Indian Army but who were over 25 years of age at the time of such enrolment, have now been offered the following options of engagement which will be effective from the date of integration :—

(a) full regular engagement as laid down in AI 317/52. All former colour service rendered in the Indian Army and with the colours on regular engagement in the States Forces will count towards the completion of combined colour and reserve service; or

(b) regular engagement for the balance of un-expired service of their original States Forces engagement restricted to the total of 15 years with the colours, and no reserve liability.

Ex-States Forces OR irrespective of their age at the time of integration under AI 12/S/50, whose period of engagement in their States Forces exceeded 15 years and who on integration opted to serve for the balance of the un-expired service of their original States Forces engagement were also offered fresh options as mentioned above.

Those who do not elect either of the above engagements will be discharged under the relevant provisions in the table annexed to Army Rule 13.

Employment — Ex-Servicemen/Reservists

During the quarter under review 106 applications were received from Ex-Servicemen/

Reservists of the Corps for employment. These were disposed off as under :—

(a) 43 applications were recommended and forwarded to the nearest employment exchanges.

(b) 55 applications were recommended and forwarded to various departments.

(c) 2 applications were forwarded to the Post Master, Madras Circle, Madras.

(d) 3 applications were forwarded to the Secretary, Railway Service Commission, Madras.

(e) 2 applications were forwarded to the Ministry of Transport, Director General of Shipping, Bombay-1.

(f) 1 application was recommended and forwarded to a TA unit.

(g) The names of 15 reservists were recommended in one watch and ward department of the National Newsprint & Paper Mill, Nepanagar (MP).

(h) In addition, 173 ex-servicemen were directed for re-employment as under:—

(i) 46 — Central Reserve Police, Neemuch

(ii) 55 — Railway Security Force, South Eastern Railway.

(iii) 72 — Assam Rifles.

Substantive Promotions — Rulings

Revised SO in C's Policy Instruction No 40 of 5 November 55 has been received. 25% of substantive vacancies will be kept reserved for those P/A/JCOs/NCOs who do not come within the seniority zone and have two years service left before retirement. Instructions have also been received that in future substantive rank to P/A/JCOs/NCOs will be given to them according to their seniority without recommendation of COs.

Formation of JCOs Reserve

All NCOs promoted to the rank of JCOs on or after 1 September 55 will be compulsorily borne on the reserve strength for a period of 5 years or until attainment of 50 years of age whichever is earlier, after their transfer to the pension establishment. JCOs who were commissioned prior to 1 September 55 may also voluntarily accept to serve in the reserve.

Selection Board JCOs

Revised SO in C's Policy Instruction 7 of 21 December 55 has been received. NCOs who are fully qualified and recommended for promotion to Jemadar will now be allowed to appear before JCOs Selection Boards thrice only after the lapse of a period of one year after each attempt, if still recommended. NCOs who are over 38 years of age and with over 19 years of service may be given three chances to appear before a JCO Selection Board at six monthly intervals, if qualified and recommended. Such relaxations are made only in exceptional cases.

NCOs 'S' Course

Intimation has now been received from Army HQ that no limit is laid down as to the number of chances a candidate may take to pass the promotion test provided he fulfils the necessary qualifications and is within the prescribed age limit where applicable.

* * *

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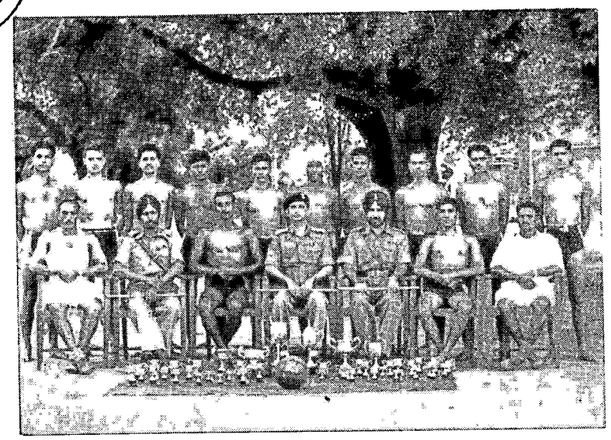

STC swimming team

Inter Unit Wrestling bouts were held at Saugor and won by 1 TTR. L/Nk. Brahma Dev and L/Nk. Dhani Ram represented the Sub Area team for the Command championship and were also selected for Command trials.

Recently STC were runners up at the Sub Area Cycle Polo tournament. Joe Pinto, Nahar Singh, Bhagat Singh and Bawa Singh, though comparative novices at the game, played well. If the team can keep in practice, it has a bright future.

Republic day and Corps Birthday were celebrated with great enthusiasm. 57 Ex-servicemen attended the Corps Birthday functions.

The other two notable events during the last few months were the establishment of a Radio Amateur Club and a Shikar Club.

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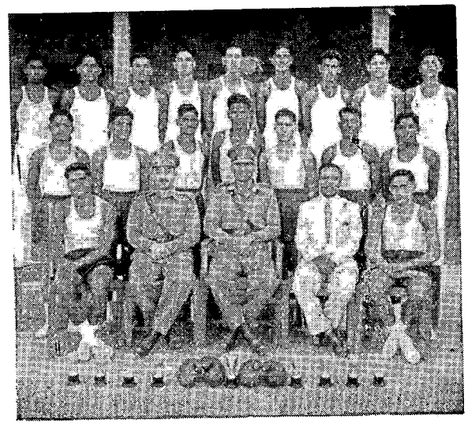

Boys Boxing team

TELEVISION SECRECY EQUIPMENT

The American government recently granted a patent to a device which is capable of sending "Scrambled" television pictures. To a person not entitled to view the pictures they would appear as a jumble of light on a screen. It requires special anti-secrecy equipment to re-produce the picture originally transmitted.

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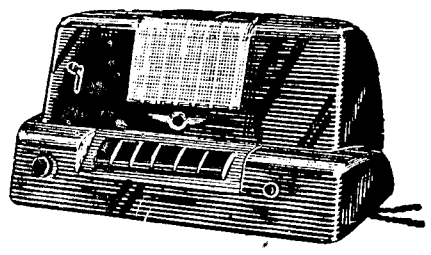

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